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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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Return of the tall ships

The *Gothenburg* makes port in China after three centuries

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Sailors hoist the Chinese flag as the *Gothenburg* enters China's territorial waters yesterday.

Photo provided by Alice Jian

Crackdown on illegal foreign workers

By Chen Shasha/Annie Wei

Shanghai authorities this week launched a month-long crackdown on foreign nationals who have entered China, and stayed and worked in Shanghai illegally. The campaign will be run in cooperation with the Shanghai police. Recent Hong Kong press reports noted a similar campaign by police in Shenzhen.

A recent survey by Shanghai Municipal Labor and Social Security Bureau found the number of ex-pats working in Shanghai passed 92,000 at the end of June. "The increasing number puts pressure on the public security" said Zhang Yuan, spokes-

person for the bureau.

However, sheer numbers are not the only reason for the campaign. Last year, some one in four labor disputes between ex-pats and Chinese employers could not be dealt with by the courts because the foreigners had no work permit, said Zhang, meaning the ex-pats rights were not protected.

Zhang said there would be spot-checks on companies. If they were found to have hired ex-pats illegally, they could be fined up to 5,000 yuan. Ex-pats working without a permit, including part-time work, could be punished or even deported.

Ji Wei, from Beijing PSB's Exit

and Entry section, said that rooting out foreigners who stay in China illegally has always been part of their remit. Between April 1 to July 10 this year, Beijing police detained and investigated 103 foreigners living in China illegally, most from Africa or other Asian countries. During the same period, 609 foreigners were fined because of problems with their visas. Ji said checks on companies that hire foreigners was one way that foreigners working illegally were identified, but that most were reported by Beijing residents.

Illegal entry includes those foreigners who have come to China

without proper certificates, or not via a designated entry port, or without a border check. These are the rarest cases. Illegal working is the most common problem. The Ministry of Public Security says some 63,000 ex-pats have been deported over the past decade.

The relevant regulations, jointly issued by several agencies in 1996, state that foreigners seeking employment in China should have with valid passport or other international travel document. People in China under study or interim programs, and the families of holders of employment visas, should not work whilst here.

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Beijing experiences its heaviest storm in 20 years

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Hundreds of villagers living by the Fragrant Hills, West Beijing, suffered from floods caused by the continuous storm since last Sunday. Beijing's Anti-flood and Drought Administrative Office have issued this year's first yellow flood alarm, indicating an emergency.

The storm started at around 10pm on July 9th. Police received 67 calls for help during the night from people living by the Fragrant Hills. Hongqi village and Mentougou village were two of the worst affected. Water in some

villagers' houses reached a depth of one and half meters. In some homes, doors, windows and furniture were swept away. Electricity and water supplies were cut in Danjiafen village. In Mentougou, villagers used sacks and boards to block and guide water into drains. Some houses even had to have holes knocked into them to let the water pass. The flood lasted for around four hours. About 30 villagers had to move to the bathhouse in the village.

One of the two main drains in the Fragrant Hills ran through the courtyard of Beijing Botanic

Garden. The water first pushed down a 20-meter-long iron barrier in the garden and smashed its southeastern wall. Forty people living in the courtyard had to escape in their pajamas to the nearest West Fourth Ring Road. One thousand trees in the garden were damaged. One cellar exhibiting stones and paintings was completely flooded. Research staff and students used basins and other containers to get the water out. Checks after the flood showed that about 20,000 specimens of plant and insects were damaged or killed in the flooding.

The thunderstorm started at 3 am, Wednesday morning again causing flooding at Majialou Bridge and Yutingqiao Bridge, in the south of Beijing. The depth of the water reached 50 centimeters and caused traffic jams until 10 am.

According to analysis from the Beijing Meteorological Bureau, irregular rainfall is normal in the summer in Beijing. The thunderstorm might continue through the week. Officials reminded all citizens unplug electronic appliances at home until the yellow alarm is lowered.

3,000 herons moved from airport after collisions with planes

By Annie Wei

Action has been taken to remove around 3,000 herons living near Beijing's airport after three of the birds collided with planes.

Airport authorities sprayed close to one ton of 'bird dispersal detergent' over trees and nests surrounding the airport in a bid to drive away the black-crowned night herons.

According to the General Administration of the Civil Aviation of Northeast China, there were 13 plane collisions with birds in the capital last year. They claim the herons were involved in three of them.

The project to force them away from the airport started in March and the authorities say that 95 percent of the herons have now left the area.

The black heron has a stocky body and comparatively short neck and legs. They are, on average, between 58 and 72 centimeters high. Their preferred habitats are large wetlands, such as swamps, streams, rivers, marshes, mud flats and the edges of lakes that have become overgrown with rushes.

There are more than 130 different kinds of birds living around Beijing's airport. Moving the black herons is one part of the whole project and it does not solve the whole problem, according to authorities.

Black boxes installed in vehicles to cut accidents

By Jiang Xubo

Traffic chiefs are set to install airplane-style black boxes in over 30,000 vehicles in Beijing in a bid to cut speeding and road accidents.

The black boxes, which record and store data, will be installed by the end of November, the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau

(BTMB) announced this week.

The devices can monitor and record speed and other traffic data for investigation in case of accidents and traffic offences.

"The devices keep a real-time supervision over the driving, just and fair, as if there was a traffic police presence on coaches," said

Chen Pu, an official from BTMB.

Vehicles, including coaches, and heavy-duty freight vans, with local driving licenses are required to install the black boxes.

Buses driving within urban districts are exempt for the moment because traffic jams mean they rarely break the speed limit.



A Russian performer gets the crowd going at the Olympic ceremony on Thursday. Photo by Bao Wei

Youngsters put their best feet forward in Olympic performance

By Jackie Zhang

Young people from 13 countries and regions gathered together at Wangfujing Avenue on Thursday morning and gave performances to express their understanding of and expectations for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The event was held as part of the 4th Beijing 2008 Olympic Cultural Festival.

About 1,500 people from countries including the United States, South Korea, Russia, New Zealand and regions including Hong Kong and Macao, made up 23 perfor-

mance teams which included wind bands, dancing teams, chorus and martial arts teams.

In addition to Olympic themes performances, the youngsters also gave performances of traditional songs and dances from their home countries.

Child bikers banned from buying gas in bid to cut traffic accidents

By Han Manman

A service station in Xuanwu District has become the first in Beijing to stop selling gas to child bikers without licenses in a bid to cut traffic accidents.

Staff at the station, who have hung up a sign saying 'We don't sell gas to minors', say they want to help cut the number of unlicensed child bikers on Beijing's roads.

"It is the summer holiday now and lots of minors that look younger

than 18 come here to try to fill up on gas," said station boss Mr. Zhang. "Some even come dressed up in their school uniform. They not only ride motorcycles but also take girls on the back. In the evenings we get groups of boys and girls driving here on their motorbikes."

Zhang stopped selling gas to kids after getting advice from the Public Transportation Administration Bureau.

Last year a boy smashed into

the station window when he failed to break in time. The window was cracked and the boy was injured. Since then, Zhang's service station has checked anyone who looks under the age of 18.

"If they don't have a license, we will refuse to give them gas and will tell them to ask their parents to come instead," said Zhang.

Police – who admit they find it difficult stopping teenagers and children riding motorcycles with-

out licenses – say they hope other service stations will follow suit.

"In China it is illegal to sell tobacco to people under 18 so we want the same rules to apply to motorcycle riders," said Yu Youqun from Xuanwu police bureau. "Stopping them going to the service station may reduce accidents among minors."

Motorcycle licenses are meant only to be issued to people over the age of 18.

Hotline to the locksmiths

By Han Manman

Beijing residents who get locked out of their homes can now dial a special hotline number to call for help.

If they call 1600110 police officers will bring professional locksmiths to their homes to help them get in.

The hotline was launched by Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau and Beijing Municipal Bureau of Commerce to standardize the locksmith industry in the city. From this week, the locksmiths will wear the same uniforms and carry the same blue colored equipment to the scene. Citizens can identify who is a legal locksmith and who is not by their clothes and equipment.

Fifty five locksmith firms with 440 certificated locksmiths have joined the hotline. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, with operators sending out locksmiths according to the location of complaints with the promise of sending over a qualified technician within 30 minutes.

A policeman then checks the client's identity and oversees the lock-opening process. After the service is completed, the client, locksmith and policeman all sign a record, which is kept on file by the police. The fingerprints of all 440 locksmiths in the city have been recorded by local police.

Ten percent of locksmiths operating in Beijing, that have business licenses but are not overseen by the police, are considered illegal.

AIDS orphans looking for temporary homes

By Jackie Zhang

Temporary homes are being sought for around 60 AIDS orphans who are coming to Beijing next month for a summer camp.

The China Youth Concern Committee is looking for 60 to 70 kind-hearted families to house and care for the orphans for three days in August.

The children – who will come from provinces across China and whose parents died of AIDS – will arrive in Beijing to attend a summer camp held by China Youth Concern Committee from August 8 to 13.

Applicant families are required to be permanent residents in Beijing. The orphans will need homes between the August 9 and 11. The families are responsible for taking care of the children's food, accommodation and entertainment.

To take part, families in Dongcheng and Xicheng Districts can sign up directly at their local residents' committees. Families living in other districts should telephone: 5160 6627 and 5160 6629. The deadline is July 25.

300 million in land compensation stolen by corrupt officials

By Qiu Jiaoning

A local village government in Shunyi District has made illegal payments of compensation money owed to 718 rural families illegally, the families allege.

A total of more than one billion yuan was owed to the Tahe villagers, as 5,460 *mu* (340 ha) of their land was used for a construction site, Wang Wentian, a representative of Tahe villagers said, "But families in the village have documentation that proves that about 300 million yuan of the

compensation money has been taken illegally".

After the land requisition and compensation deal was reached in 2001, the number of registered villagers in Tahe Village increased from 2,150 to 2,523, meaning an additional 373 people made themselves eligible for a share in the land compensation money. Yet these new villagers all changed their residence registration to Tahe village after local authorities forbade such transfers.

Wang Wentian said that a

registered resident, regardless of whether they have property in the village, will get at least 170,000 yuan compensation, and this is the reason why so many people want to become registered residents in Tahe, though it is illegal. Villagers claim that most of these newcomers are relatives or friends of local government leaders.

Relatives of local government leaders also purchased some collectively-owned village factories and got large sums in compensation.

The farmers are asking higher

government authorities to investigate and dismiss corrupt officials in the village government. They also want the repayment of illegally taken land compensation.

Li Yufeng, deputy director of Shunyi District Civil Affairs Bureau, said that the bureau has accepted the petition from representatives of Tahe Village and reported it to higher-level supervisory agencies. Li revealed that a special working group will be set up soon to conduct further investigations into the dispute.

Acid used to make lychees look fresh

By Chen Shasha

A woman surnamed Li recently asked authorities to investigate after claiming her son was made sick after eating fresh lychees, Xinhua reports. The boy suffered inflammation of the throat and became seriously ill. His mother requested that the City Administration Bureau in Shijingshan inspect the suspect fruit.

On July 11, Shijingshan Food Quality Research Office, Industry and Commerce Bureau and City Administration Bureau conducted a street inspection. This revealed that the fruit stall had a bottle of liquid labeled as being for keeping lychees fresh. Sun Weiguo, of the Shijingshan Health Inspection and Supervision Bureau, says that on examination the liquid was found to be an acid. "Acid will damage mucous in the stomach and throat, and cause coughing," said Sun.

At Beijing's largest fruit wholesale market, at Xinfadi in Fengtai District, staff at the Xinyuan wholesale store said they once sold this kind of liquid to retailers. "After you apply it, the lychee will stay looking good, like it's just been picked," staff said, but claimed they no longer sold this product because, "it is said to be toxic."

Yuan Chunlin, head of Fengtai Industry and Commerce Bureau, said that they had recently inspected lychee sellers in their district too, and had found 61 bottles of the toxic fluid, labeled as being produced by a factory in Guangdong Province. However, the contact number of the factory was no longer correct, said Yuan, although the Trade Mark Registration Number on the bottle appeared to comply with regulations. Yuan said the Bureau are currently investigating how the fluid was brought to Beijing, but this is still ongoing.



Giant panda habitat listed World Heritage

Two new sites in China have been added to the World Heritage list: the habitat of the Giant Panda in Sichuan; and Yinxu in Henan site of the ancient capital of the Shang Dynasty. CFP Photo

European worked on First Emperor's mausoleum 2,200 years ago

By Han Manman

DNA tests on human remains discovered in a tomb near the Terracotta Army site in northwestern Shaanxi Province have shown them to be those of a European. Archaeologists are suggesting the man may have been the first foreign worker in China, over two millennia ago.

The remains were found among 121 incomplete human skeletons in a tomb near the mausoleum of China's first emperor, Qinshihuang. The short-lived Qin Dynasty flourished over 2,200 years ago.

"The foreigner was a man who

died in his 20s and was a European, but we're not sure if there were more foreigners involved in the construction of the mausoleum," said Tan Jingze, from the modern anthropology research center at Shanghai's Fudan University, which conducted the DNA tests.

Experts from the Institute of Archeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (IACASS) said the remains are of workers who built the first emperor's mausoleum. Historical records say that Qinshihuang mobilized more than 700,000 workers to build his lavish tomb complex. The work-

ers were buried underground after the tomb was completed, so that its secrets would not be revealed. The foreign skeleton was discovered in one of these mass burial sites.

Tan speculates that the foreigner might have been captured in the north where nomads roamed between east and west Asia, and subsequently sent to work building the mausoleum.

Duan Qingbo, head of the Qinshihuang Mausoleum Excavation Team, said it is the first time a foreign laborer has been identified in this period.

No more group tickets on new train to Lhasa

By Gan Tian

In order to ensure that individual travelers can buy tickets tickets, the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Company has stopped allowing the booking of group tickets. All tickets from Xining to Lhasa will be sold at Xining Railway Station.

Company spokesperson Wang Xuonan says that travelers purchasing tickets at Xining Railway Station will be restricted to a maximum three hard seat tickets or three sleeper berth tickets, and will only be allowed to book five days in advance.

After it opened on July 1, tickets for the Qinghai-Tibet Railway train numbered N91, from Xining to Lhasa, have been sold out every day. Because we are approaching the best traveling season, tickets for other trains on Qinghai-Tibet lines are also in short supply. Only 16 tickets a day are on sale for the journey from Golmud, Qinghai's second largest city, to Lhasa, although there are usually some 200 travelers hoping to make the journey into central Tibet from there.

Brief News

Japanese chemical weapons excavation ends

Experts from China and Japan unearthed a total of 210 Japanese chemical weapons abandoned after World War II in Ning'an city in Heilongjiang Province, concluding a six-day joint excavation campaign this week.

Human bird flu cases

Nineteen human cases of bird flu in 11 provinces across the country has brought China's total death toll from the disease to 12, according to the Ministry of Health.

Explosions claim 123 lives

Nine explosions across the country caused by illegal dynamite production have killed a total of 123 people and injured 75 this year, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

Flood-hit south allocated 260 million

The central government recently allocated relief funds of some 260 million yuan (US\$32 million) to seven flood-hit southern provinces and autonomous regions, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Ministry of Finance.

More people killed by private cars

Private cars killed over 19,000 people in road accidents across the country during the first six months of this year, up some 43 percent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Low-emission cars become more popular

Beijing, July 9 (AFP / newsonline.com) – Fuel-efficient cars with low emissions proved popular in China's auto market in the first half of this year, accounting for half of the top-10 best selling vehicles.

Xiali, manufactured by the Tianjin FAW Xiali Automobile Co. Ltd. and popular for its low energy-consumption, kept its number one position on the list of top selling low-emission cars, Xinhua news agency said.

The company sold 93,800 Xiali vehicles in the first six months of this year, said Xinhua, which cited statistics from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Xiali was followed by the Excelle of Shanghai General Motors and the Elantra from Beijing Hyundai, with sales of 86,900 and 85,400 respectively.

Insiders attributed the popularity of low-emission cars to soaring oil prices and preferential government policies on vehicles with low emissions, Xinhua said.

China has raised the price of processed oil twice in the first half of this year, hiking costs by 300 yuan (US\$37.5) per ton in March and by 500 yuan per ton in May.

Earlier this year, the central and municipal governments began promoting small, low-emission cars as oil prices remained high and environmental concerns grew over the nation's fast-rising auto culture.

They ordered the lifting of restrictions on small cars, which were banned by some local governments due to fears that the cheaper vehicles would cause an explosion in vehicles on the road and bring damage on the country's environment.

The government is also considering to create a new tax system for the auto industry that would promote low-emission cars and penalize large, petrol-guzzling vehicles.

Consumption taxes on vehicles with engines smaller than one liter may be cut from three to one percent, while taxes on engines bigger than three liters are likely to rise from eight percent to 14-20 percent.

The number of private cars on China's roads has nearly tripled in five years, with previously released government data showing there were around 17 million last year, up from 6.25 million in 2000.



A clean metropolitan is the target Beijing is pursuing.

CFP Photo

Interview with the editor:

Chinese people's interest in low-emission cars gives us hope for better environment protection, no matter whether that is the motivation for their popularity or if it's driven by the increasing oil prices.

We are impressed by the rapid growth of China's car manufacturing and market sales. We believe the low-priced China-made cars will be exported around the world, just like your exports of garments, toys and electronic products.

But we would like to remind you that aside from low emission technology, there are many other alternative ways to save energy, like alcohol-gasoline, solar-energy, LPG and others. China should introduce more advanced technologies and develop its own expertise before becoming the largest car exporter. You should apply the latest technologies in the cars you produce and export.

– **Sharvon Ladul, editor,**
newsonline.com

Graduates face job crunch despite boom

Beijing, June 30 (Reuters) – With the trees in bloom and the sun shining, students strolling the grounds of Beijing's leafy university campuses shouldn't have a care in the world.

They've marked themselves out as China's best and brightest by winning coveted places in college and are graduating in a country experiencing breakneck economic growth, social change and cultural revival.

So why is Bai Yun worried?

The 21-year-old will soon have a degree in computer automation, but he's still struggling to find work, one of a growing number graduating only to face the unthinkable prospect of unemployment.

With about 750,000 more students graduating this year compared to last, the competition is getting tougher, leaving 20-somethings whose studies have often left them with little practical know-how floundering to find work.



Graduates at their graduation ceremony at Fudan University, June 28. They are facing an uncertain employment future.

(Reuters Photo)

Mismatch

At the same time, multinational companies report a shortage of skilled workers, leaving China with a mismatch between supply and demand in the labor market.

New graduates no longer want to work in the heavy industries

that fueled China's growth, but face a service industry and small- and medium-sized enterprise sector too underdeveloped to absorb them.

Graduates often want their first job to be the one they stick with, fearing that if they move around, they'll lose coveted benefits like pen-

sions and health care.

Those willing to take risks and have their own business are faced with a banking sector dominated by state banks that are more used to lending to state-owned enterprises than small business ventures.

Move to the hinterland?

A Ministry of Education notice said about one-quarter of last year's graduates were unemployed.

More than 55,000 students took the government up on the offer and went to work in less developed western provinces, the official Xinhua news agency has said, lured in part by favorable policies including pledges to cancel their debts in compensation. But the solution is not for everyone.

Bai grew up in Beijing and wants to stay. Chen, who is from the coastal province of Shandong, says the capital offers more opportunities than her hometown, a sentiment she says is shared by most of her classmates.

Interview with the editor:

China is our neighbor. Like India, it has a big population, and both countries are maintaining a similar growth rate. So whatever is happening in China has relevance to India.

Even though it is not exactly the same, we too are facing these problems. Any good tech graduate or journalism graduate will get a job if he is in one of the growing cities like Delhi, Banga-

lore or Mumbai. Slowly the educational institutions are changing their curriculum to create 'industry-ready' students. Students who are not adequately equipped take some short term courses. And the

government is trying to attract job creators to smaller cities, a policy that has succeeded to some extent.

– **Hari Krishnan, editor,**
www.Oneindia.in
(By Jiang Xubo)

Beijing secures natural gas supply

Shanghai, July 10 (Interfax) – Beijing has secured 4 billion cubic meters of natural gas supply for 2006, officials from the local gas supplier, the Beijing Gas Group confirmed with Interfax. The supply is adequate to cover the city's consumption for this year.

The supply is backed up by Beijing's long-term deals with natural gas producers in Shaanxi as well as the improved transportation capacity brought about by the completion of the second Shaanxi-Beijing natural gas pipeline last July.

With 6,000 households in Chaoyang District giving up coal gas and starting to use natural gas last month, Beijing has become the first large Chinese city to have a complete urban natural gas pipeline network.

4.08 million households in

the city used as much as 3.08 billion cubic meters of natural gas in 2005, making Beijing the biggest urban natural gas consumer in China last year. The capital city plans to further expand annual consumption volume to 6.3 billion cubic meters by 2010.

World's largest reservoir ready to hold more water

Beijing, July 11 (PTI / newkerala.com) – The Three Gorges Hydro-Power Project on China's Yangtze river is ready to store a record amount of water after the summer flood season.

The reservoir, located in Yichang in central China's Hubei Province, is ready to hold water to the level of 156 meters, up from preset 135 meters, which has been maintained since the reservoir began to store water in June 2003.

Officials with the State Council Three Gorges Project Construction Committee said the quality of the clean-up work at the reservoir site has met the objective and requirements.

At the end of June, workers had demolished buildings with a total floor space of 9.2 million square meters in the area to be submerged, and cleared up 133,356 sources of pollution and 1.5 million tons of solid waste.

China has also spent US\$1.3 million annually to prevent upstream garbage floating to the mammoth dam since 2003, to ensure safe operation of the world's largest water project.

A collection of floating garbage in the reservoir was carried out in February this year.

The project involves two cities, Yichang City in Hubei Province and Chongqing Municipality in western China.

Launched in 1993, the Three Gorges Project, including the dam and 26 generators on both banks of the Yangtze River, is planned to be completed in 2009 and by then, it will be able to generate 84.7 billion kwh of electricity annually and help contain floods.

The Three Gorges Project is estimated to cost 180 billion yuan (US\$21.7 billion).

Interview with the editor:

The reason we follow the construction of the Three Gorges Dam is because it is really so big historically and compared to anywhere else in the world.

India and China are the two big countries in Asia. We have just settled our decades-long border disputes and opened the Nathu La border trade route. As your Premier said, the two countries can be competitors, but not rivals. Most Indians fully agree with this.

We can also learn a lot from each other. India has a more successful education system, sophisticated democratic mechanisms and a stable society, while China has better capacity in manufacturing industry, high-tech innovation and clever leadership.

– **Gurwayan G. Sudhakaran, editor,**
newkerala.com

China's Nanjing Auto to build MG cars in the US

Washington, July 12 (AFP) – Nanjing Automobile Corporation plans to produce sports cars under the fabled MG badge in Oklahoma, thus becoming the first Chinese automaker to build cars in the United States.

NAC, which bought the historic British marque from the bankrupt MG Rover Group last year, said it will start constructing the car plant in early 2007, and roll MG cars off its production line by May of 2008.

The Chinese state-owned auto-



Reuters Photo
maker's bid to enter the US – the world's largest car market – comes as US giants General Motors and Ford are struggling to fend off Japanese automakers like Honda and Toyota on their home turf.

Some Chinese auto firms have indicated they will sell cars in the US, but NAC would be the first with a US plant. It also would produce cars in China and Britain.

"MG vehicles will not only be built in Nanjing, China, but also at the Longbridge assembly plant near Birmingham, England and at a new American assembly plant to be built at the Ardmore Air Park in Ardmore, Oklahoma," MG Motors North America said in a statement laying out its ambi-

tions for the brand.

The company will build a newly designed and MG-badged TF Coupe in the southwestern US state and create 550 jobs on its assembly line, in distribution and research and development.

"Nanjing Motors is fully committed to the restoration of the MG brand to markets around the world," said NAC president Yu Jianwei, who attended the announcement event in Oklahoma City with state officials.

ANZ buys stake in Tianjin bank

Sydney, July 11 (Bloomberg) – Australia & New Zealand Banking Group said it has completed the purchase of 20 percent of Tianjin City Commercial Bank for US\$112 million, giving it a foothold in the main port serving the Chinese capital of Beijing.

The Australian lender will focus on increasing retail and small-business banking in Tianjin, where the US\$45.8 billion economy grew 14.5 percent in 2005.

Citroen builds new factory

Beijing, July 10 (UPI) – France's PSA Peugeot-Citroen Automobile Corp. will start making cars at its new Chinese factory in 2009.

Construction of the new plant, being built with Dongfeng Automobile Corp., will begin by year-end. Capacity is expected to reach 150,000 units per year.

The PSA Group holds a five percent market stake in the Chinese auto market, *Shanghai Daily* said this week.

KFC to open 100 drive-thrus

Beijing, July 10 (AFP) – Kentucky Fried Chicken plans to open 100 drive-through outlets in China in the next three years in an attempt to compete with rival McDonalds.

McDonalds announced last month that it will team up with Sinopec, China's largest oil refiner, to open several drive-in windows at Sinopec's gas stations to take advantage of the nation's booming auto industry.

Entering China in 1987, KFC has expanded to 1,700 restaurants in the country, but most are franchises.

McDonalds, which came in in 1990, runs 762 fast food outlets.

Emaar plans to build in China

Beijing, July 8 (Orange County Register) – Emaar Properties, the largest Arab real estate company by market value, plans to build homes, shopping malls, schools and hotels in Beijing and Shanghai. In June, Emaar bought Newport Beach-based John Laing Homes for US\$1.05 billion.

"The Chinese economy has been growing at an impressive rate," said Mohamed Ali Alabbar, Emaar's chairman. "Underpinning this growth momentum is the property sector."

CapitaLand invests in Beijing

Singapore, July 12 (Reuters) – Southeast Asia's biggest developer, CapitaLand Ltd., said it has agreed to invest in two residential projects in Beijing worth a combined S\$43.6 million.

The two projects will add a total of 1,100 units to the group's current pipeline of 33,000 homes in China, the developer said in a statement released on the Singapore Exchange.

Hey, baby

A baby waves European and Slovenian (R) flags in front of the European Headquarters in Brussels.

Slovenia has begun the final countdown to adopt the euro next year after EU finance ministers cleared the last legal hurdle to the country's debut in the European currency club.

(AFP Photo)



Shell, Shenhua to study coal-to-fuels project

Beijing, July 11 (Bloomberg) – Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's second-biggest oil company, and Shenhua Ningxia Coal Industry Group, a unit of Shenhua Group Corp., China's biggest coal producer, will study the technical and commercial viability of building a 70,000 barrels-a-day plant in northern China's Ningxia province.

Record oil costs are spurring China to build plants that can turn some of its coal reserves, the world's third-largest, into auto fuels and raw materials for making plastics. Sasol Ltd., the world's biggest producer of motor fuel from coal, said last month China has the potential for at least 12 coal-to-fuel plants.

"We believe this technology is important to China," said Lim

Haw Kuang, chairman of Shell companies in China. The plant will contribute toward "finding sustainable energy solutions" for Ningxia and China, he said. Preliminary cost estimates for such projects run at between US\$5 billion and US\$6 billion.

Shell would invest in the plant and provide the technology, with the Chinese partner taking a majority stake, Lim said. The plant may start operating by 2012, Wang Jian, Shenhua Ningxia's general manager, said.

The US has the world's largest coal reserves at 246.6 billion metric tons, according to BP's Statistical Review of World Energy. Russia's reserves of 157 billion tons are the second-largest, followed by China with 114.5 billion tons.

Kazakh-China oil pipeline commences

Beijing, July 12 (UPI) – The Kazakh-China oil pipeline began its first day of commercial operation Tuesday.

Crude oil from Kazakhstan poured into a petroleum tank in Altay pass, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region through a cross-border pipeline, marking the beginning of commercial operations for China's first direct oil import pipeline, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

Experts say the move will help enhance China's oil supply and provide an ideal outlet for

Kazakhstan's oil export.

The 960 kilometer pipeline was jointly developed by China National Petroleum Corporation and Kazakh state energy company, Kazmunaigaz.

It is designed to transmit 20 million tons of oil a year, 15 percent of China's told crude oil imports for 2005.

Industry insiders say construction of the oil pipeline is a win-win strategy for both countries as it will hopefully ease China's energy dearth and provide an ideal destination market for Kazakhstan's rich oil resources.

Quick! Take a Gome home!

Beijing goes barny for bazaar sales

By He Jianwei

Gome, the home appliances giant, is having a bazaar sale lasting from July 8 to 12. It is the first time such a sale has been used to retail home appliances in China.

Gome has 200,000 items up for grabs at its Anzhen franchise, including refrigerators, washing

machines, computers, televisions, microwaves, and digital products from more than 200 brands.

"We sold around 60 percent of our home appliances on the first night", said Chen Lin, manager of Advertisement and Promotion Department at the Beijing Branch.

"To our surprise, a group of foreigners even attended the sale. They enjoy this activity."

Bazaar sales are fashionable in Japan, the US and Europe. The idea is that large quantities of name brand products are on sale at low prices for a limited time.

Wang Huiwen, general man-

ager of north China Gome said the emphatic success of this event means they will hold a bazaar sale every July from now on.

After the success the Anzhen store has seen, the other five Gome franchises in Beijing will also hold bazaar sales: shoppers wait with baited breath.

What makes Zidane snap?

By Mark Memmott (USA Today)

French soccer star Zinedine Zidane's deliberate headbutting of an Italian opponent – and subsequent expulsion from the World Cup final – is an even bigger story for most of the sports world.

So why'd he do it? Most morning-after analyses cite his well-documented temper. Time Europe speculates that Italy's Marco Materazzi – the guy Zidane leveled with a butt to the chest – goaded Zidane, knowing the French star might come unglued. French newspapers are claiming that Materazzi called the French-Algerian Zidane 'a terrorist.'

Britain's Channel 4, in a video report, has a sports psychologist speculating that Zidane was even more 'combustible' than usual because he knew it was his last match before retirement.

One remarkable note: Zidane was still given the Cup's 'Golden Ball' award as the tournament's best player.

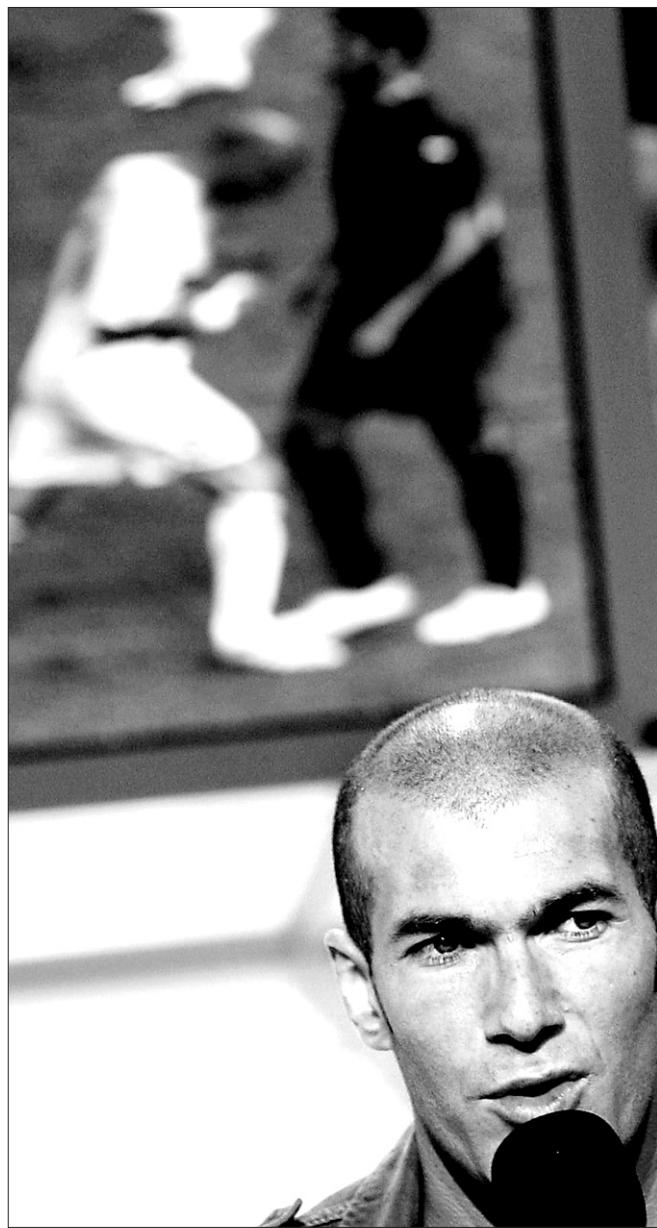
Comments:

The only two other acts of aggression Zidane displayed besides this one, was in the 1998 World Cup, where he was red carded for stepping on a player, and another controversial head-butt while playing for Juventus. In a career that spans 18 years and more than 600 games, he is hardly the 'bad boy' of soccer.

Of course, despite his legend-like stature, he is only a human being with all the flaws and contradictions that comes with it.

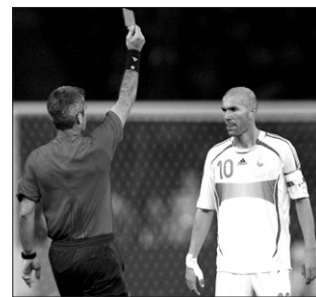
– From a reliable source

We should reserve judgment until we hear what insult Materazzi hurled at Zidane. I don't think Zidane's actions cost France the game except to the extent that it



Zidane admitted he was annoyed when Materazzi called him something relates to terrorists and his sister yesterday in a TV interview.

Photo by BQB



(Photo by USA Today)

distracted them psychologically. Once it went to penalties it was anyone's game.

– Zuleron

The Italians won fair and square. It is a known fact that in all sports, players bait each other to distract them from the game. In this case, it was clearly to provoke Zidane, who has a known violent temper, past all endurance and try to have Zidane kicked out of the game and it was a brilliant tactical move that worked.

– Debbie

Zidane, yeah the Italian guy might have said something rude and inappropriate, but, don't you think it would have been better to shove the World Cup in his face, than exit on such a sour note.

– U Don't Get it

Congratulations to Zidane for winning the Golden Ball Award as the BEST PLAYER of the entire FIFA tournament.

– Rob

This Zidane character makes the sport interesting, and soccer needs more of that. This kind of activity makes soccer interesting. Most fans just won't admit they really like violence not sport.

– Confused American

Penalizing an offended player shows loss of control not of the player, but the referees and the entire FIFA organization too. It is time to create a new soccer organization!

– Truly yours

Sports is not about how well you can hurl abuse or new ways of insulting your opponent and cheating; its about playing a better game and enjoying it. Zidane did that, and rightly so he got the Golden Ball.

– adarsh

Zidane is a classless idiot. How do you go on the biggest stage, that you have worked so hard to get to, and get red-carded out?

– illy ill

One must separate Zidane the soccer player from Zidane the person. If Zidane, the person, had walked up to someone on a street in Paris and head-butted that person, under the same circumstances, he would be charged with assault and battery. If FIFA wants to regain control of it's soccer policies and procedures, they should encourage Materazzi to press charges and seek civil penalties from Zidane. Doing so would clean up the cheap shots some players inflict on other players and it would be an excellent example to set for the soccer playing youth of the world. It's a soccer match not a boxing match.

– Frank R. Cadicamo

Zidane 's a classless player who comes apart whenever things don't go his way. Italy was the better team by far in this tournament and won for that reason. France was lucky to get out of the group stages.

– afd1949

Coke trade secrets 'something out of a spy novel'

By the Associated Press

"A secretary accused of helping two men steal trade secrets from The Coca-Cola Co. and trying to sell them to rival PepsiCo was ordered released on bond Thursday, in a blockbuster case her lawyer likened to 'a spy novel.'" Associated Press' Atlanta branch reports.

"Joya Williams' co-defendants, a pair of ex-cons who served time together at the same federal prison in Alabama, were detained pending a preliminary hearing for all three on Tuesday. Their attorneys would not say how Williams knew the two men."

Comments:

I can't believe that someone would stoop as low as to try and sell the Coke recipe to Pepsi. May your head hang in shame, and your face be known as a trader! You make me sick!

– Loyal Coke Head from Skyway WA

Personally, I think the whole thing was staged, and really, why would Pepsi want Coke's secret? That's absurd!

The whole thing is phoney!
– Aeshaw

Don't all ingredients have to be listed?

– Michael Gagliardi in N.J.

Coke and Pepsi are about the same. They are carbonated water, loads of sugar, lots of calories, and caramel coloring, and they cause addictions and diabetes. So why sell to one another!

– BA

With the world as it is today, our government is assigning FBI agents and resources to this type of undercover operation?

– phildogg

Are we turning into a nation of white collar criminals or what?

– rrb

I want to know how these idiots approached Pepsi... it's not like you just walk into a meeting of Pepsi executives and scream, 'we got it!' and they write you a check.

– BJB5150

As far as people stealing company secrets - every company has to step up their security as far as maintaining documents, servers, and as far as hiring people.



(AP Photo)

I worked in HR in a banking firm, and I cannot tell you how many people stopped the interview after my first two sentences – "Good morning. Do you know you will be required to take and pass a drug test and an FBI fingerprint test?" They would simply thank me and walk out.

Trust me, stealing from a company or anyone else for that matter is not worth the jail time.

– TVDIVA

Frankly, I do not care what one drinks so long as the beverage's fizz from its CO2 provides that ultimate cola experience.

– John Holmes

Weekly topics

Newsweek (US)

1. Is troubled Poll Good for Mexico?
2. Will Gitmo reversal help Bush in Europe?
3. Bush must act on Mideast
4. Energy Exec calls for green power
5. A Netflix hangover

New York Times (US)

1. US terror targets: petting zoo and flea market?
2. Baghdad erupts in mob violence by gun and bomb
3. In big shift, US to follow Geneva Treaty for detainees
4. MSNBC's star carves anti-Fox niche
5. Congressman says program was disclosed by informant

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

1. Mrs ZZ goes over the top
2. Socceroos win penalty they could do without
3. Bus lane faces axe as tunnel fear rises
4. High-speed net for all at \$1.70 a day
5. Sky fills with smoke as border becomes fire zone

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Bell Globemedia to buy CHUM
2. Zizou: Still a superstar
3. BlackBerry service interrupted
4. Zidane: 'I apologize to all the children'
5. MySpace used to 'lure' girl, 13

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Zapatero snubs Pope at Mass for 'the family'
2. Two dead soldiers, eight more to go, vow avengers of Iraqi girl's rape
3. Zidane: how the mighty can fall very far
4. Let's embrace la dolce vita
5. I was the very first desperate housewife'

(By Jiang Xubo)

July 6 Sunny

Helping in the kitchen

It was my turn to help in the kitchen yesterday. I was there all day, four hours in the morning and four hours in the afternoon. The eight hours was sheer purgatory.

I rinsed pails of cutlery from breakfast and then put them into the anti-bacterial dishwasher. Every time I lifted its cover, steam would rise from the machine and treat me to a sauna.

We have tea break at 10am. We had to get it ready half an hour ahead. Then we had to prepare breakfast for the sailors who change shifts at 4am. Then we had to lift food for lunch to a canteen in the second floor and set the table. I was stuck to the dishwasher in the entire four hours. Thank God, time flies.

The worst ordeal came in the four hours in the evening. My workmate, a high school graduate, once worked as a sailor for nine months and helped in the kitchen for three weeks. He picked up the cook's job assignment list for us and read, 'cleaning the floor, all the sinks, walls and places covered by stainless

steel, preparing tomorrow's vegetable salad, raw material for tomorrow's meals, refreshments for the routine tea break at 10pm in and food for sailors who went on duty at midnight'. At the same time, we had to wash the cutlery that kept coming in.

I stared at my workmate with amazement, "Do you really think we can do it all in one single night?" I asked. "Well, we don't have to. The next pair will offer cover. But we have to try our best to get it done," the boy said.

I was assigned to rinse the dishes and all the places covered by stainless steel. The boy got all his troublesome jobs done and got refreshments for the night ready when I was still struggling with my job. I finally finished my work at 11:30pm and asked him, "Anything else?" He just dragged out a basket of chili and told me to cut it all. He put a chopping board in front of me before I could say even one word. I had no choice and began to cut. In fact I got so sleepy, but I had to carry on for the boy was still there working, with his face dripping with sweat. We finally got all our assignments done just one minute before our shift ended.

July 9 Sunny

Party like you're nine

It was time for fun every Sunday. Groups gave a performance in turn, and now it was styrbord (starboard) group's turn. We noticed a homemade invitation card stuck on the mirror in my group badbord's (port side) toilet. It was from the styrbord group for a 'Kids Birthday Party' held at 2pm. We were asked to dress up like kids and prepare birthday gifts.

It was scalding when I stepped on the deck. Girls in our group were already there, plaiting their hair with vivid strips. Guys, however, made hair bands, ties and belts. Smart guys tied these strips around their wrists, ankles and even toes. Someone even made himself a necklace.

At 2pm, the show began.

Susanna, the hostess, divided us in to four groups and assigned different missions for each group. The group who achieved its goals first would win the



Moments later, all these people were keel hauled for insubordination.

game. I was in group one. First, we had to play a game on the deck. The 10 people in my group were asked to create a monster with two heads, five hands and eight feet, all with our bodies. Mission two, members in my group had to get in line, holding an apple between our chins and chest and passing it on from the first in the line to the last one, one by one. Mission three, we had to stand on a blanket cast on the deck and turn it over, keep-

ing all our feet sticking to it at the same time! Finally, the last mission - we sang a chorus.

Game over and it was time to present the birthday gifts. My group's gift won overwhelming praise.

Sailing life was tough. Maybe that was why all the games and entertainments every Sunday had brought us so much joy, especially when we were floating on the sea in a sweaty box day after day.

July 13, Sunny

The Gothenburg arrives

At 3pm this Thursday, the *Gothenburg* sailed into the domain of Zhuhai sea, China, dropped the anchor at Wanshan Isles and thus ended its nine-month Sweden-China voyage.

The ship began approaching China at 12pm. Sails were rolled up and the chief engineer gave the order to start the engine at 12:15pm.

At 4pm, the sailors on duty climbed the mast to unfurl the sail. All the windows of the gun cabin were sealed after leaving Jakarta. Now they were opened again to let the wind blow through. According to the plan, the ship was going to rest at Nansha Freight Dock to wait for the King and Queen of Sweden, and sail to Nansha Dock. The ship will then sail along Chinese waterways to reach its final destination.

Peter Kaaling, the captain announced to the crew that the ship would arrive at the anchorage near Guangzhou at 8am. The *Gothenburg* then had traveled across a north latitude 21 degrees.

The sails had sagged for several days because of the weak wind. The ship traveled as slow as two knots. But the wind began to get stronger last night. Thus the captain forecast with confidence that we would arrive on schedule.

Ulf Hed, the chief mate raised a Chinese flag to the fore when he was on duty. By convention, the national flag of the country who owns the ship should be placed aft and the destination country's fore. Then a ceremony was held when raising the Chinese national flag at 9am, which the captain and all 12 Chinese attended.

"We struggled and waited for more than 10 years. And now we are getting to our destination. Today is a big day," said the captain to Chinese journalists after the ceremonies.

By Alice Jian
(Translated by Jiang Xubo/
Wang Xiaoyuan / Gan Tian)

The Gothenburg returns



"Fancy meeting you here!"
"Must be coincidence!"

Photos provided by Alice Jian

July 12, sunny

Pancakes, sweat and melodies

The weather had been getting hotter since July 10. Axel Johansson, the second mate said that by tomorrow night, we would arrive in Guangzhou.

I had to give a lecture on Chinese culture to the Swedish staff. The gun deck was as hot as the kitchen. When I was giving the lecture, sweat nearly drowned my face. Linda Svensson, who was at the same team as me, went to ask the chief officer Ulf Hed to broadcast my report.

To the melody of Chinese



Would you like your pancake with sweat or without?

Gugin, I explained this music could cool people's hearts and also help them sleep well. In my report, I mentioned Gugin's history, structure, and its importance in Chinese history. Then, I broadcasted a few pieces of renowned Gugin music, *Mei Hua San Nong*, *Guang Lin San*, and *Ping Sha Luo Yan*. Many elder sailors, like the Captain and the First Officer enjoyed the music. However, some young guys fell asleep. Bastards.

After the lecture, Linda said to me, "It's unbelievable! The 3,000-year old Chinese Gugin sounds like blues!" I replied with a smile, "Yes, they have much

in common. It seems that you already understand it!"

That night, the photographer from CCTV Exploration Discovery made a Chinese pancake for the staff. Us Chinese, who had had to suffer western food for a long time, felt extremely happy. The Swedish also got surprised when tasting genuine Chinese food: of course, they praised it. On July 12, at the request of all the Swedish staff, he made Chinese pancakes for dinner again.

In these unbearable hot days, Chinese culture and cuisine definitely brought fresh topics to the *Gothenburg*.

Photos provided by Black Eyed Peas

Black Eyed Peas — bringing the love to Beijing



By Tom Mackenzie

Chart-topping hip-hop group Black Eyed Peas will kick off their first tour in China next week with a performance in Beijing.

The Grammy-winning US band who found fame with hit song *Where is the love?* will perform at the Beijing Exhibition Center Theater on Tuesday night to promote their new album *Monkey Business*.

"In going on the road for so long, we got an idea of what kind

of music we wanted to play and make," explained oddly named band member will.i.am. "*Monkey Business* is very much about the types of songs we play live. It's about a party. It's layered differently and has energy to it that reflects how we tour — from the beats, to the types of instruments we used, to how we interact with the audience. It's very much about us and the crowd on this record."

The group, who have sold more than nine million albums



worldwide and hit the headlines with their breakthrough album *Elephunk*, will jet from Beijing

to Shanghai for a concert on July 20 before leaving China.

And the secret to their success?

"I think the fact that we just have fun with music is the reason why it works for us," said will.i.am. "We love music and melodies and don't try to distinguish ourselves from regular music fans. It's really that simple."

Enlightening.

For ticket information go to www.piao.com.cn or call 800 810 3721.

Jean Paul Gaultier says "Non" to plagiarism

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The French fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier has sued a company in Shantou, Guangdong Province and a stall owner at Beijing Hongqiao Market, Chongwen District, for violating the copyright of his designs.

Liu Daochen, the lawyer representing Gaultier, stated in court that in 2005, Gaultier discovered two Sellion perfumes on stand No. 253 of Beijing Hongqiao Market, whose bottles and containers looked almost identical to the ones he had designed for Beaute Prestige International, France (BPI). The trademark of Jean Paul Gaultier and his own design also appeared on the perfume's packaging.

Gaultier pointed out that in his statement that, in 1992 he authorized BPI to use his name as the trademark of their perfume *Le Classique* and designed the woman body shaped bottle for them. In 1994, he designed the bottle in the shape of a man's body for BPI's perfume *Le Male*. To protect the glass bottles, Gaultier created the metal column-shaped perfume container at the same time.

Zhao Liting, the owner of the stand, admitted that the perfumes were produced by Shantou Jiarou Refined Deci Co. Ltd. Jiarou Refined, however, insisted that the Sellion series were all designed by their own staff and denied the accusation of plagiarism.

The Second Intermediate People's Court of Beijing Municipality made the judgement that Jiarou Refined had violated the copyright of Gaultier's design and should pay 400,000 yuan compensation to the designer and stop selling and producing all related products. Zhao Liting, as the retailer, was also ordered to stop selling the products.

Dopey drunk wrecks car, falls asleep

By He Jianwei

At 3am July 11, a man ran his Sonata into road railings at the crossing of Yaojiayuan under bridge of Chaoyang Park. He was under the influence of alcohol.

In a bizarre real life parallel with the antics of cartoon drunkard Homer Simpson, the driver then fell asleep, bending over steering wheel as the airbag deployed. The front of the white Sonata was twisted concave and had sliced road railings into twisted rolls.

After 20 minutes, traffic police at Shuangqiao Detachment arrived and turned off the engine. A waft of alcohol hit the police as the man staggered from the vehicle, bleary eyed.

Traffic police told the driver's colleagues to take the man away. Police identified the driver as a Korean working in Beijing.

Model ambitions

By Tom Mackenzie

Rebecca Andre adjusted her three bras, flicked her hair, pouted her lips and stared into the camera as seductively as possible.

One make-up session and an impromptu acting lesson later and the 27-year-old student had finished her first TV commercial — a three-minute ad for a Chinese 'super bra'.

"I'd been approached by an agent in Wudaokou who asked if I wanted to do a bit of modeling," she explains. "I thought it was hilarious that I'd even been asked but said yes for the hell of it."

Rebecca arrived at the studio in Haidian a few days later and was handed a strapless gel bra.

Big breasts

"It was called a 'super bra' and was meant to make your breasts look bigger," she says. "Of course it didn't work so they had to put three of the bras on to bulk up the size. There were a couple of Russian girls doing the ad with me. We were just told to smile, look sexy and chat away as they filmed. Our voices were dubbed and they superimposed a beach scene behind us. It was all a big con but they paid me 5,000 yuan for the day and put me on Chinese TV."

Rebecca is one of a growing army of foreign faces — and bodies — put on TV, pasted onto billboards and printed in magazines and newspapers to promote hundreds of Chinese products from bras to face creams and apartment blocks to language schools.

Agents scour the student areas of Wudaokou and Haidian, picking out "interesting looking" foreigners and dishing out their cards.

"A foreign face can really help

to promote a product," explains Bentley Lau, from Long Teng Model Agency. "An unfamiliar face grabs the attention and suggests that the products are exotic or unique. Most of the foreigners who appear on TV or in magazine adverts have never done any modeling before. They probably wouldn't even be considered particularly beautiful back home."

Approached by women

James Cresswell, a tall man with waist-length auburn hair, thinks he must have been considered 'exotic looking' by the agents who picked him to ride across a park on a horse and strike catalogue-style pouts and poses for a casual clothing chain.



Da Shan advertises Haojixing, an English teaching machine. Da Shan is one of the most popular expat stars in China.

"I was approached by a woman in a bar and asked if I wanted to be a model," he says. "I thought 'what the hell', agreed and was flown down to Nanjing and put up in a swish hotel."

"The filming took place the next day in a park and they started off by getting me to strike these ridiculous poses with this drop dead gorgeous female model who didn't look at me once all day. We had to wear these horrible golf tops and



An English training school's advertisement on Chaoyang Road

Photo by Tom Mackenzie

jeans, the kind of things your dad wouldn't be seen dead in. They were clothes that even Brad Pitt couldn't make look good.

Skinny, undernourished, seductive

"The *piece de la resistance* was me sitting on this skinny, undernourished horse trotting towards the camera and trying to look seductively off into the distance with my hair flowing behind me. I never saw the advert but one of my friends phoned me a few months later after watching it and was in fits of hysterics."

Unfortunately those that fork out for products pushed by foreign models probably find it all a little less amusing. Many foreigners who have dabbled in modeling claim that the goods they were promoting simply did not do what the advert claimed. Which probably explains why so many agents refused to speak to *Beijing Today*

when we tried to quiz them about their activities.

"Most of the agents just want a white person to promote their product because they think it will give it more credibility," said Rebecca. "Most of the stuff they are pushing is rubbish. I did another advert for skin whitener that was meant to make dark skin pale but it was a complete con. They did a before and after. For the before they painted wrinkles on my face and made my skin darker and for the after they caked me in makeup to make me look pale and youthful. The whitener didn't change the color of my skin at all."

But moral qualms are unlikely to put many foreigners off lending their faces to China's increasingly competitive advertising industry.

"I got paid 5,000 yuan for the day and had my face on Chinese TV," says Rebecca. "How could I say no to that?"

Celebrate French National Day

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Embassy of France and the French Chamber of Commerce in Beijing invite all our local Gallic cousins to attend a celebration for the National Day of France on Friday, July 14.

Philippe Guelluy, the

Ambassador of France and his wife will hold a function at the French Consulate from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This will be a formal occasion and all guests are expected to dress accordingly. The function is open to French nationals and their

spouses only.

For those not satiated by the revelry at the consulate, the outdoor dancing party organized by the chamber of commerce will continue the fun till the wee hours. The party will be held at the French Kindergar-

ten beside the Belgian Embassy and in front of the Friendship Supermarket, north of Sanlitun bar street. The dance party is ready to accommodate all comers, regardless of nationality. And it's free entrance. Oh, the humanity!

Institute Cervantes opens in Beijing

By Gan Tian

Today Los Principes de Asturias (the Spain Prince and princess of Asturias) are coming to Beijing to celebrate the opening of Institute Cervantes Beijing. As the 58th branch of Institute Cervantes, an institute aimed at spreading Spanish language and culture, Institute Cervantes Beijing is the first in China.

His Royal Highness Felipe, and Her Majesty Letizia, will appear in the Cervantes center today. Cesar Antonio Molina, the president of Institute Cervantes, Miguel Angel Moratinos, the Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister, and Sun Jiazheng, Chinese Minister of Culture, will also attend the opening ceremony. Afterwards, the royal family visited the Library Antonio Machado.

Institute Cervantes was founded in 1991. Now it has branches all over the world. Inmaculada Gonzalez Puy, the head of its Beijing branch said at the press conference on July 11, "Though Spanish is still a minor language in China, more and more people want to learn it. We see the



Spanish music band Hook Fire in the Wednesday concert Photo provided by Institue Cervantes Beijing

potential in China. We will try our best to teach Spanish."

In 2005, the Chinese and Spanish governments signed an agreement to build cultural centers in both countries: a Chinese cultural center will be open in Madrid and the Spanish government will establish Institute Cer-

vantes of Beijing.

A series of activities starting this Wednesday are arranged to celebrate the opening of the school, including an exhibition, round-table meetings, shows and concerts. Spanish folk music band Hook Fire has already played a concert named 'Heart of the

Pig' in the Poly Theatre on July 12. Gelabert-Azzopardi, a famous dancing group, will give two shows named *Psitt, psitt!!* and *Viene regando flores desde La Habana a Moron* tonight. The exposition 'Laberinto de museos' will be open to the public from July 15 to October 15.

Exploring the world of plants

By Jackie Zhang

If you are interested in plants, the activity held by the British Council next Wednesday will be right up your shrubbery. You can communicate with famous 'plant professionals' and learn about the world of all things green.

David Paterson, vice director of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, will come to Beijing next Wednesday to participate in the CafeScientifique, a regular activity providing people a platform for discussing about modern technology held by British council. Paterson has been working in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for 25 years and has done research into the plant species in Scotland. He has also visited China over 50 times in recent years and knows a lot about the environment in Lijiang in Yunnan Province.

In CafeScientifique, Paterson will introduce the knowledge and growing condition of wild plants in Scotland and also tell the audience the current situation of the plants protection in Lijiang, Yunnan Province, by showing pictures, videos and recounting his own experiences.

People interested in the event and who want to take part can sign in by sending an email to cafescientifique@britishcouncil.org.cn.

Australian golf challenge strikes

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The eighth Australian Golf Challenge was held at CBD Golf Course on July 7. The competition was organized by the Australian Chamber of Commerce

and attracted the whole golfing community.

The event has been a milestone on the golfing calendar for Beijing golf fans. Over 100 players joined the challenge

and 25 enterprises offered sponsorship. This year they enjoyed a four-hour match with 18 items. A gala BBQ, lucky draws, games, prizes and Australian wine tasting followed.

Part of the proceeds went to the Philip Hayden Foundation (PHF), a US non-profit charity which sets up orphanages. More than 90 children will benefit from this donation.

Gathering for German apprentices

By Jiang Xubo

Around 7pm Tuesday, Manuela Reintgen, German apprentice from a business magazine, arrived at Die Kochmutzen at Jianwai SOHO for the *Praktikantenstammtisch* (regular meeting of interns), regular gathering of apprentices from German companies in Beijing.

Praktikantenstammtisch is an informal meeting of the German Chamber of Commerce Beijing (GCCB), aiming at mutual exchange of information for interns like Manuela. Germany students, trainees and young professionals in Beijing are other frequent visitors. The event attracts dozens of people every time.

Manuela, a Chinese Translation Study major from Bonn University, came to Beijing in March. She started her six month apprenticeship at *China Contact* in March, collecting information and doing marketing for the magazine.

"I made quite a few friends from Siemens, Volkswagen and other German companies here. They are interesting and different people with different backgrounds and targets. I get to know their jobs by talking with them. And now I am sure that I am doing the right thing, by

studying Chinese," said Manuela.

Twenty-one-year-old Johannes Weigel came across the notice for this event at the German Chamber of Commerce when he arrived in Beijing and started his three months' apprenticeship in Viessmann Heating Technology at the beginning of June. It was his second time to be there.

"It is just getting together and chatting about experiences. But it was very good to hear what's up in Beijing," said Johannes.

The meeting is a service for the German community, but young people from Switzerland, Austria and other countries also take part.

Most of their apprenticeships in China last for about six months. The apprentices just come and go. But the *Praktikantenstammtisch* remains since GCCB launched the first gathering in 2003.

"There are so many interns in Beijing. Most of them stay here for three months. It was quite difficult for them in the beginning. So we think it would be nice to make them meet and get to know each other," said Sonja Muller, Executive Manager of GCCB.

There are some 300 German companies in Beijing, according to GCCB.

European Parliament president visits China

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The president of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell Fontelles will hold talks with senior Chinese State and Party officials and leaders of the National People's Congress this Wednesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday, Fontelles met representatives from the EU business community and visited the EU-China Social

Security project.

Fontelles had just visited Lhasa, Tibet, where he met with provincial authorities, and looked at EU-supported development work and Tibetan enterprises from July 9th to 11th. Today he is visiting Shanghai and will address the China-Europe International Business School and meet with representatives from the Standing Committee of the Shanghai People's Congress.



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Cooks compete for a slice of Olympic action

By Huang Daohen

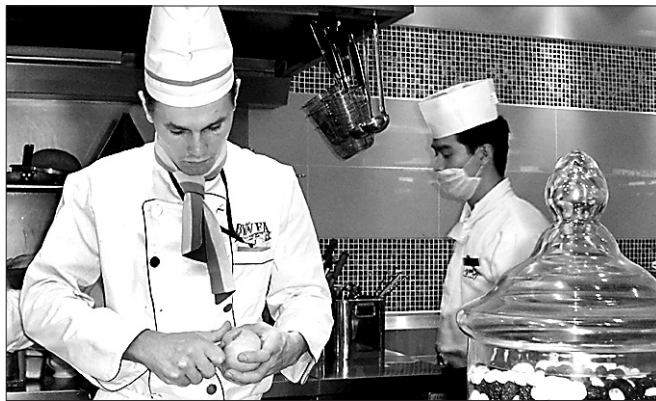
Fifty chefs from across the globe competed in a culinary festival this week for the chance to be official cooks at the 2008 Olympic Games.

The culinary kings came from as far afield as Italy, the Ukraine and France to take part in the 4th Beijing World Food Cultural Festival, snappily titled 'Taste of Global Cuisine - Salutation to Beijing Olympics 2008'. The event was hosted by the Beijing Western Food Association (BWFA).

During the competition, the cooks whipped up a host of dishes to symbolize the Beijing Olympics.

"The competition is meant to show the meaning of fair-play as different countries have different cultures, and there are so many different standards of food," said Xu Bin, the secretary-general of BWFA.

The results of the competition will be announced July 31st. Winning chefs will become candidates to cook 'Olympic Food', serving athletes and guests in 2008.



A Ukrainian cook prepares Kiev-style vegetable and tomato steamed rolls
Photo provided by BWFA

Students battle to prove knowledge of China

By Chen Shasha

Students from 50 different countries are hoping to kick, dance, sing and speak their way towards a year of free study in China this month.

The hopefuls, who have been picked from thousands of competitors from across Asia, Africa, Europe and the US, will show off their knowledge of all things Chinese from July 19 as part of the 5th Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students.

Over four days, the students will try to wow the judges with their Chinese language skills and knowledge of the culture, including Chinese songs, dances, operas, musical instruments, calligraphy, painting, paper cutting and martial arts.

The competition - which is being sponsored by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language - will kick off on July 19 at the Century Theater, Chaoyang.

International fitness party to kick off tomorrow

By Han Manman

A global fitness show kicks off at the China International Exhibition Center tomorrow.

Fitness China Beijing Show 2006 is expected to attract fitness professionals, manufacturers and enthusiasts from across China and the world. The event is seen as a showcase of the world's growing fitness industry.

Famous fitness coaches from over 20 countries will take part in the event. There will also be international standard coaching courses and examinations for aerobics instructors in pilates, yoga, latin dance, step, hip-hop and personal training.

"Nearly 600 fitness coaches from all over China

have come to Beijing to receive a three day training course from famous international fitness experts," said Ms Gong, a spokeswoman for the event. "There will also be a number of themed activities, the opening ceremony, stage show, Star Gym Instructor show, group aerobics dance competition and a closing ceremony. People should come and experience what is on offer."

The 2006 Beijing international fitness cup table soccer tournament will also be launched at the event.

Fitness China, Beijing Show 2006 was founded in 2004 and is sponsored and supported by the Chinese Government.

Top chef shows how to whip up a French feast

By Chu Meng

Twenty housewives from Japan, America and China received a high-end cooking demonstration of how a two-star Michelin chef turns very sophisticated French cuisine into simple homemade grub, at an exclusive cooking course in Beijing on Wednesday.

"Some people have got the impression that French cuisine is sophisticated, difficult and mysterious," said chef Guilhaudin. "But they are wrong. French cuisine can be something very easy and simple."

He started with his favorite appetizer: pan-fried pastry filled with shrimp and basil leaves. Using square-flat pastry, which you can purchase in any supermarkets selling imported food, he rolled up a fresh shrimp and basil leaves with pastry and lightly fried it in olive

oil until the pastry wrapping had turned golden. "Done," he said, "only five minutes and you can serve it up. Let people eat the crispy rolls while you are cooking other dishes."

Then he whipped up seafood soup boiled with champagne, which also took just five minutes. Putting half water, half champagne, and any kind of seafood you can get your hands on, you turn down the heat when the soup begins to boil and add a pinch of salt and pepper.

At the end of the demonstration, Guilhaudin served everyone a rich lunch, including all the dishes he had just taught. The participants received official Certificates of Participation from Le Cordon Bleu Paris signed by the man himself.

Golf Day for business chiefs

By Gan Tian

Up to 80 business chiefs and media Moguls swung their clubs and put their putting skills to the test on Saturday at a golf-themed networking event.

MIH Golf Day, organized by South African media giants MIH, was held on July 8 at Tian'an Holiday Golf Club, Chaoyang.

The aim of the day was to provide a platform for the bosses of different companies to meet each other and network. Managers from the Chartered Bank, the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, CCTV and Beijing Youth Daily all took part in the event.

MIH arranged golf practices and competitions for the participants. After the competition, MIH hosted a buffet for the participants.

MIH Group is one of the world's leading providers of television platform services, Internet services, pay media and interactive technologies. MIH Beijing office in China was established in October 1998. Since then MIH has been working closely with State Academy for Radio, Film and Television and CCTV.

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Fun in the sun

By Annie Wei / Qiu Jiaoning

There are dozens of reasons why people love summer so much, even if it is hot and humid. First and foremost there are all those tanned girls in sexy tops and hot pants. Then, of course, there are all those great nights out, the cold beer, barbecues, the outdoors, friends and family visiting from home, summer travels to Tibet, Mongolia...

All of these things have something in common – friends and families and the great outdoors. To make your summer even more enjoyable we list below amusement parks and playgrounds that can be fun for all the family. Beijing now has four large amusement parks in the south, east and west.

Happy Valley amusement park

A giant Chinese amusement park called Happy Valley opened this week in Beijing, adding to the competition for the three older amusement parks in the city.

Beijing Happy Valley is located nearby Sifang Bridge on the Southeast Fourth Ring Road, with over 120 amusement facilities spread across an area of one million square meters.

The construction of the park will be divided into three phases. The area that opened this week only includes the part completed during the first four-year-long phase and includes six themed regions; 'Bay Forest', 'Atlantis', 'the Lost Maya', 'Aegean Harbor', 'Shangri-La' and 'Kingdom of Ants'. Happy Valley Beijing also houses a modern shopping complex, an IMAX theatre and seven cinemas.

It is open between 9:30am 8pm every day; admission is 120 yuan per adult until July 28, going up to 160 yuan after that. Children who are under



A roller coaster in Happy Valley

Photo by Ice Qian

1.2 meters tall and anyone over 70 years old can get in for free. Children who are between 1.2 meters and 1.4 meters and people aged between 65 and 69 can buy half-price tickets.

There is also the option to buy annual tickets: 580 yuan for an annual ticket for one person, 780 yuan for a parents ticket, 1,280 yuan for a family ticket and 999 yuan for a couples ticket.

Shijingshan amusement park

The Shijingshan Youlechang (Shijingshan Playground) first opened 20 years ago and is located in Baijiacun Shijingshan area. It describes itself as a modern fun place with European buildings, Chinese gardens and a range of play equipment. Activities include: a fast-speed train, roller coaster, swimming pools, go-karting and paint balling.

From July 8 to August 31, Shijingshan Playground has a summer holiday promotion with tickets for 36 activities costing just 100 yuan each, compared to the normal price of 418 yuan.

This Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of China's successful application to host the 2008 Olympic Games, the playground will open for free.

The three most popular activities at the amusement park are the 3D-cinema, 888 meter-long roller coaster and water adventure area.

How to get to Shijingshan Playground: take the subway to Bajiaozhan Subway and follow the signs.

Beijing World Carnival

World Carnival funfair came to Beijing in 2004. Rides include

a merry-go-round, bumper cars, a ferris wheel, the waltzer, and log flumes.

There are also a number of family-oriented activities like train rides, slides, toy sets and a bouncy castle.

Beijing World Carnival adjusts its prices according to the season. The average cost for a couple last summer was around 500 yuan, which included most of the rides and activities. Management at Beijing World Carnival have said they are considering lowering the prices but have yet to release details.

Beijing World Carnival is located in Babaoshan, west Beijing. Visitors can take the subway line 1, get off at Babaoshan and follow signs to the funfair.

Largest website for learning Chinese launched

By Chen Shasha

The largest website for teaching Chinese and promoting Chinese culture, run by Beijing Normal University and sponsored by the Office of Chinese Language Council International, opened on July 8.

Users around the world can visit www.linese.com, which is in both Chinese and English, to study Chinese and com-

municate with each other in interactive communities. The interactive lessons are based on an online club where users can download videos of Chinese lessons. They will be able to download the lessons for free this month. Anyone with special interest in Chinese philosophy and culture can book individual lessons through the website.

Users can also take a virtual tour of Beijing's hutongs, and learn about traditional city life in China. Zheng Zhongxiu, manager of linese.com, said the online tourism would include the Forbidden City and Tibet in the future, to introduce China's diversity to the world.

Updated news regarding China's social development and pic-

tures of Chinese landscapes will be displayed on the website. Users will also be able to access to blogs, podcasts and an online encyclopedia. Several links to Confucius Institutes around the world with upcoming events can be found on the website.

New versions in Japanese and Korean are expected to come online in the future.

ASK Beijing Today

This week Alex from US asks several questions:

1. Which is the most famous teahouse in Beijing?

Laoshe Tea House, is named after a famous Chinese writer Lao She and a play he wrote named *Teahouse* (*Chaguan*). It's considered to be the most famous teahouse not only in Beijing but also in China. The owners of the teahouse claim to have served around 50 top overseas dignitaries including Lien Chan, chairman of the Kuomintang (KMT), who paid a visit during his ice-breaking trip to Beijing in 2005.

Laoshe Tea House was established in 1988 in Qianmen, the most prosperous commercial area of old Beijing and a stone's throw from Tiananmen Square. The teahouse covers more than 2,600 square meters, and provides services like traditional story-telling, dining and stage performances. Laoshe Tea House has helped to preserve Beijing's old arts and traditions and has become a must-see for tourists. It's decorated in a traditional Beijing style and hiring a room is relatively cheap, around 90 yuan per hour and 10 yuan for each guest.

2. When is the best time to visit Beijing?

September and October.

There are sand storms in Beijing during spring. Summer can be too hot and humid, while in the winter it can be too cold to go outside. Remember, most of the tourist sights were built thousands of years ago and therefore do not have central heating. So autumn is the best season to visit. But remember, it can be very dry so drink plenty of water and bring some cream and lip-balm with you.

3. Where is the best market for electronic gadgets?

The two famous locations are Bainaohui (Chaoyangmenwai Dajie) and Zhongguancun in Haidian District.

Zhongguancun is called the silicon valley of China, which is a bit far off the mark as it's really more like a hardware store than a center for technological creation. There is very little difference between the two markets. Bainaohui will be more convenient for those living or working in Chaoyang District. Not only can you find cheap electronic goods, you can also get them fixed there. One shop-owner we spoke to advised shoppers to check out a number of stores and bargain hard before buying.

Zhongguancun is a whole area made up of so-called 'IT buildings' and is considered a computer geek's paradise.

If you have any questions about living in Beijing, write to: dongnan@ynet.com, Beijing Today will try to find you the answers to your questions.

(By Annie Wei)

Flights from Beijing cut as rainy season approaches

By Chen Shasha

The numbers of flights from Beijing are set to be cut as the city's airport prepares from the coming rainy season.

Air passengers are being advised to check information about their flights regularly between now and September.

According to the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China, 584 flights from Beijing airport will be axed between Saturday and September 25. The flights include those of Air China, China Eastern, China Southern and Hainan Air flying between

Beijing and Hangzhou, Xi'an, Nanjing, Harbin, Qingdao, Haikou and Yantai. Most of the flights that have been cancelled were scheduled between 5pm and 8pm when heavy downpours are most likely.

Liu Xuan from Chuang Xiang airline ticket agency said the cost of flights to these cities might rise as a result. The situation is not helped by the fact that train tickets over the summer will become increasingly hard to find as students take their holidays.

On a more positive note, new international flights from Beijing will start this summer.

Direct flights from Beijing to Brussels will start on July 20. The round trip ticket will initially be priced at below 2000 yuan. Direct flights from Beijing to Frankfurt will start from July 17 with planes scheduled to leave every Monday.

For more details go to:

Air China: <http://www.airchina.com.cn/>
Hainan Air: <http://www.hnair.com/>
China Southern: <http://www.cs-air.com/>
Eastern Air: <http://www.ce-air.com/>

New edition train tickets

By Huang Daohen

The Beijing Railway Bureau issued a new type of train ticket on Sunday.

The main difference between the new edition ticket and the old version is the Pinyin marked underneath the station name. Beijing's ticket sales system has also updated and improved allowing passengers to purchase return trip tickets. Passengers can also now get information about transfer stations, trains and waiting times.



Whips. Whistling the theme to Rawhide is optional

Origin

The world-renowned Shaolin Temple, which is over 2,000 years old, is regarded as the birthplace of Zen Buddhism. As the symbol of Chinese martial arts, Shaolin kung fu, is the oldest and wide spread martial art. With kung fu movie stars Jackie Chan and Jet Lee showing off their skills in Hollywood, kung fu today is popular across the world.

Dong Huanan, the show's director, described the performance, by the Poly Shaolin kung fu Group, as pure. Combining kung fu and dance, the show unveils the daily life of monks in the Shaolin Temple. "It took us a long time to teach the young monks how to convert their kung fu skills into dance," he said.

Street dance warm-up

It is funny to watch skilled Shaolin monks clumsily attempting street dance. At the last dress rehearsal, the Shaolin monks were busy doing their final practice and their warm was not kung fu but dancing to hip-hop. Dong explained that dancing to hip-hop was just a warm-up to get the young monks feeling the rhythm. "It helps them learn how to combine kung fu and dance," he said. "All of our actors have been trained in Lad Kungfu, skills learnt from a very young age. They have enough masculinity but lack flexibility."

Highlights

This 90-minute spectacular kung fu showcased the monks' skill in fighting barehanded and with 18 different weapons, including the cudgel, spear, sword and broadsword. Among the dozens of programs, the highlight must be the 18 Arhats. In Buddhism, Arhat represents the highest spiritual fulfillment in a monk's life. In the Tang Dynasty (AD618-906), there was a group of 18 Arhats in China and Tibet. They were famous disciples appointed to witness the Buddha-truth and highly respected by Buddhists. Now the 18 Arhats are also one of the most important marks of Indian Buddhism's place in China.

"The eighteen Arhats shows the soul of kung fu," said Dong. "Eighteen boys were selected from different Kungfu schools nationwide. They not only need to practice their kungfu but also Tai Chi, belly dance and performing with their eyes. In the Arhat's eyes, the sensuous world is illusory and all physical existence is vanity," said Dong, adding, "When we first planned to add belly dance into this kung fu show, everybody thought it was a crazy idea, but

the essence of belly dance is to control breathing and muscles, which is actually very similar to kung fu".

Other programs like *Drunkard Performing* and *Rush Out Of The Temple* are also eye catching. The drunk kung fu performance shows the monks performing as if they were wasted on booze. *Rush out the Temple* is impressive, showing the special way in which the disciples are sent out of the temple. The disciples have to break up several obstacles before leaving the temple to symbolize stepping into a complex world. They can only leave the temple by beating the very last adversary. Many Shaolin Arhats stay in the temple for the rest of their lives because they cannot beat every disciple.

World tour

The Poly Shaolin kung fu-performing Group is run by the Poly Artist Management Company and the Shaolin Temple. All members of the group are from the Shaolin Temple.

The youngest monk, Miao Shuaifeng, is only eight years old. Although he looks very active on the stage, backstage he was very shy and would only answer questions with a 'yes' or 'no'.

Miao started learning kung fu from the age of six. "My parents wanted me to learn," he said. "My father saw the kung fu stars on TV and he wanted me to become a star." When asked if he thought he could become a star, little Miao said, "Yes, I can!"

Another member of the group, 18-year-old Fang Lanyu, has been learning Kungfu for eight years. Fang described daily life at the temple as sleeping, eating, practicing Kungfu, and learning how to master 18 weapons. "I am a football fan," he said. "I support Brazil and Ronaldinho is my favorite player," Fang said, "but I only got to watch one World Cup match."

Into the Temple started its tour in France last year and was extraordinarily popular among French audiences, leading to 20 further performances across Europe. At the Muscat Festival held in the Sultanate of Oman, the kung fu show went on for eight consecutive nights. The King of Oman invited the kung fu team to perform at a party for the elites of Oman and foreign ambassadors. It was the only performing team invited by the king to the party. Monday's show in Beijing is the 100th performance of *Into the Temple's* world tour. More shows are set to be staged in Beijing in the near future.

Into the re

They've got no hair, but they don't

By Han Manman

Can you imagine a steel board being split in half by a person's head or lying face-up on a bed of upright swords? Can a needle pierce a piece of glass? Or can someone stay unhurt if stabbed by a sword? *Into the Temple* on Monday in the Poly Theatre used special effects. It is genuine Chinese Kungfu, not the kind of special you see in kung fu films.



18 Arhats



Straight to the point

Sore t

Real temple

t care - enter the Shaolin Monks



Eight year old Miao Shuaifeng



Photos by Brook Wang



'What's brown and sticky? My stick!'

Wonderful, fast and colorful

By Anders Bager and Lars Ulfvig

Flying colors, movements fast as the wind, spectacular stunts and incredible tricks. These are some of the words that describe the performance of Chinese kung fu *Into The Temple* at Poly Theatre here in Beijing. The displayed warning 'Don't try these stunts yourself' is a good one, even if it is tempting to just have a try of the steel-breaking-against-the-head-trick (but with a bamboo stick) just to get a better understanding of how hard it is.

The show is performed by 20 'Arhats' of different ages with youngest only eight years old. Many years of practicing kung fu and Qi Gong has made it possible for these monks to astonish the audience with their skills displaying stunts on the very limit of the abilities of the human body.

The show itself is divided into two main parts separated by a 10-minute break. The first part displays many routines and tricks of a type that westerners would expect of a show like this with the monks breaking steel bars and bamboo sticks against their bodies and those of the other monks. Many acrobatic routines using different types of Asian weapons like the long sword, three-sticks, nine section whips, sticks, double hooks and swords are also displayed. When presenting these stunts the performers sometimes seem to be unaffected by gravity and their acrobatic skills would probably make them strong competitors for the gymnastics events in the 2008 Olympic Games.

The second part is more like a ballet performance where Qi Gong movements are performed in contexts of everyday tasks like fetching water, serving dinner and even by sweeping with a broom. This part presents the skills in a beautiful way and gives a deeper understanding of Kungfu and Qi Gong showing the importance of complete harmony in body and soul to be able to fully comprehend the depths of this type of Eastern philosophy. In the western world martial arts and Qi Gong is something that you do in your spare time but here in the East for some it is life.

Finally the show ends with a brief summing up of the different skills with sticks and weapons in a short story about when a monk is allowed to leave the monastery as a full-fledged monk.

The show is a wonderful, fast and colorful display that brings messages on two levels to the audience. The first is an incredible display of skills when the monks display their skills in amazing presentations. The other is a much deeper one about the sacrifice that anyone must make to become really skilled in whatever one chooses to do.

Reviews

Packed with thrills but lacks a plot

By Xie Lixue

This was the first time I had seen Shaolin kung fu performed on stage. I loved the kung fu dance moves, I enjoyed watching the child monks wow the crowd with their kicks and punches and the Qi Gong performances were thrilling. The only thing the show lacked was a coherent plot.

Despite the lack of structure, the first half of the show was full of heart-stopping moments. The monks demonstrated the skills of various Chinese martial arts - moving with bare fists, swords, whips and spears, and using Qi Gong, the method of harnessing energy, to protect them from being hurt. As a woman, watching the strength and agility of these men was an awe-inspiring experience. I did, however, feel that some of their stunts were a little over the top. When they stabbed sharp swords and spears into their backs and throats I was left cold. I would have preferred to see these skills demonstrated as part of the kind of plots they have in the Kung fu movies of Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan and Jet Lee, showing how the martial art can save someone's life or uphold justice.

The second half of the show, when the monks show how kung fu melts into their daily lives, is more enjoyable. From the morning exercises, to the practices with brooms and during cooking and eating, to rushing out of the temple, the performances make the audience feel like they are in the temple.

There is no doubt that Shaolin kung fu is one of the most attractive and magical body movements in the world. The youngest monk (who is eight-years-old) reminds me of my cousins, two boys younger than him living in the US and Germany. Both of them have fallen in love with kung fu and practice it all the time. They don't have the same dream to be a kung fu star as the little performer, but they feel proud of their Chinese heritage when they learn it, because it is a tradition that has been handed down to them.

Blink : The Power of Thinking Without Thinking

By Malcolm Gladwell

Key themes: Thinking, short periods of time, decision making

Synopsis

Blink is about the first two seconds of looking – the decisive glance that knows in an instant. Gladwell, the best-selling author of *The Tipping Point*, campaigns for snap judgments and mind reading with a gift for translating research into splendid storytell-

ing. Building his case with scenes from a marriage, heart attack triage, speed dating, choking on the golf course, selling cars, and military maneuvers, he persuades readers to think small and focus on the meaning of 'thin slices' of behavior. The key is to rely on our 'adaptive unconscious' – a 24/7 mental valet – that provides us with instant and sophisticated information to warn of danger, read a stranger, or react to a new idea.

Not sure I fancy this. A business book?

Gladwell includes caveats about leaping to conclusions: marketers can manipulate our first impressions, high arousal moments make us 'mind blind', focusing on the wrong cue leaves us vulnerable to 'the Warren Harding Effect' (i.e., voting for a handsome but hapless president). In a provocative chapter that exposes the 'dark side of blink', he illuminates the failure of rapid cognition in the tragic stakeout and murder of Amadou Diallo in the Bronx. He underlines studies about autism, facial reading and cardio uptick to urge training that enhances high-stakes decision-making. In this brilliant, cage-rattling book, one can only wish for a thicker slice of Gladwell's ideas about what Blink Camp might look like.

– Barbara Mackoff

I know, I know, never judge a book by its cover. But what's the meat of the research like?

Gladwell has a dazzling ability to find commonality in disparate fields of study. As he displays again in this entertaining and illuminating look at how we make snap judgments – about people's intentions, the authenticity of a work of art, even military strategy – he can parse for general readers the intricacies of fascinating but little-known fields like professional food tasting (why does Coke taste different from Pepsi?). Gladwell's conclusion, after studying how people make instant decisions in a wide range of fields from psychology to police work, is that we can make better instant judgments by training our mind and senses to focus on the most relevant facts – and that less input (as long as it's the right input) is better than more. Perhaps the most stunning example he gives of this counterintuitive truth is the most expensive war game ever conducted by the Pentagon, in which a wily marine officer, playing 'a rogue military commander' in the Persian Gulf and unencumbered by hierarchy, bureaucracy and too much technology, humiliated American forces whose chiefs were bogged down in matrixes, systems for decision making and information overload.

– Publishers Weekly

Sounds exciting this...

But if one sets aside Gladwell's dazzle, some questions and apparent inconsis-

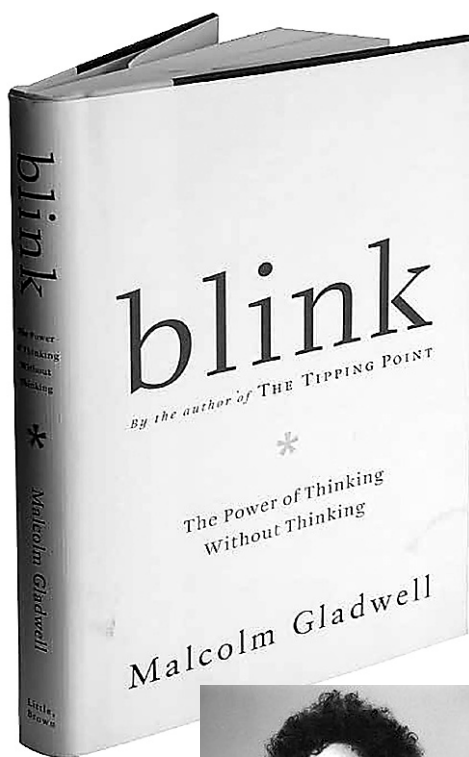
tencies emerge. If doctors are given an algorithm, or formula, in which only four facts are needed to determine if a patient is having a heart attack, is that really educating the doctor's decision-making ability – or is it taking the decision out of the doctor's hands altogether and handing it over to the algorithm? Still, each case study is satisfying, and Gladwell imparts his own evident pleasure in delving into a wide range of fields and seeking an underlying truth.

– Publishers Weekly

Make your mind up, fool. Wasn't the algorithm saving lives?

Left to their own devices, the doctors guessed right on the most serious patients somewhere between 75 and 89 percent of the time. The algorithm guessed right more than 95 percent of the time. (pp. 135-136)

Sounds conclusive, but I'm not technically a doctor and if I'm



Malcom Gladwell

caught in the cardiac ward again it could mean jail time. Anything I can use in business?

One of the in depth studies looked at a military leader who was particularly successful. One of his more poignant observations was that a great leader needs to let the people do their work. When deciding how often to follow up "you are diverting them, now they are looking upward instead of downward. You are preventing them from resolving the situation". (Page 118) Further "allowing people to operate without having to explain themselves constantly... enables rapid cognition" (Page 119). It seems that most micro-management actually prevents people from successful decision making.

Another strange phenomenon occurs when we try and explain how we come to some conclusions. It seems that the more we try to analyze how we come to some conclusions the less reliable they become.

The ability to absorb and detect minute changes in facial expressions allows us to essentially 'read minds' if we pay attention. There are several chapters on how reliable we can be in predicting behavior with very little information.

– Michael Erisman, Amazon reviewer

Mind reading? I've got a few annoyingly straight spoons he could see to while he's there. What do the experts think of Gladwell?

As a psychologist who studies implicit/nonconscious phenomena and its relationship to explicit/conscious phenomena. Much of this book is based on junk science. The author seems not to have done his homework. It may be enjoyable to read, but it should be read as being a slanted consideration of the relevant scientific literatures.

– J. Jaccard, Amazon reviewer

OK, a test. Snap judgment Jennifer?

You can't judge a book by its cover. But Gladwell had me at hello – and kept me hooked to the final page.

– Jennifer Reese, Entertainment Weekly

Wow. And you Edward?

Rarely have such bold claims been advanced on the basis of such flimsy evidence.

– Edward Skidelsky, Daily Telegraph

Put that down as mixed, then.

(By Gareth George)

Local shelf

Furi Furi: What a happy life and death



By Robert Klanten (Editor)
Furi Furi Company, 176 pages, 350 yuan

Radical Japanese design collective Furi Furi (also featured in Narita Inspected) splice childish naivety with a wealth of modern elements. Reinterpreting stern Japanese traditionalism in a rich, futuristic collection of 3D-images, spreads, special colors and web sites – this collection places Furi Furi at the vanguard of modern cutie culture.

Cream 3



By Editors of Phaidon Press
Phaidon Press, 448 pages, 540 yuan

The latest book in the internationally recognized series devoted to contemporary art, architecture, photography and product design, *Cream3* offers an authoritative view on the art world of today and tomorrow. Ten international curators, renowned experts in contemporary art, have each chosen 10 artists whom they feel best exemplify what is happening in the contemporary art world today, and also those who will be the stars of the future.

Drop Dead Cute

By Ivan Vartanian
Chronicle Books LLC, 160 pages, 225 yuan

Drop Dead Cute showcases the work of 10 cutting-edge female Japanese artists whose art combines the pop charge of Takashi Murakami and Yoshitomo Nara with a thrilling personal mixture of sweetness and power. This next wave of painters and illustrators from the red-hot Japanese art scene blend aspects of manga, anime, and traditional art with their own idiosyncratic visions to create work that is international in appeal yet uniquely Japanese. This gorgeous book features profiles of the artists based on fresh interviews, along with a generous survey of their art.

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(By Wang Xiaoyuan)

Brazilian cuisine: A South American melting pot

Brazil's history is evident in every bit of the country's food. Native Indians developed corn porridge, cassava meal, sweet potatoes, roots, hearts of palm, many species of game and fish, and the preservation of meats by smoking

and drying. In 1533, the Portuguese colonized Brazil. After a lengthy Moorish occupation, Portugal had adopted a variety of North African cooking traditions, among them coffee, dried fruits and pastries. These culinary cus-

toms were in turn exported to Brazil, with the twist of being prepared using local ingredients.

The largest single influence on Brazilian cuisine came from the African slaves. Peppers and coconut milk, staples of West African

cooking, became firmly established on the Brazilian palate. During the Nineteenth Century, slavery ended and an independent Brazil became a melting pot for immigrants from all over the world. Waves of new arrivals

from Asia, Western and Eastern Europe and the Middle East brought kitchen traditions with them that put a truly eclectic spin on Brazilian cuisine.

— By David Peterson from 'Eat Smart In Brazil'

Alameda: A testament to Brazilian creativity



Salmon sashimi

By Chu Meng

'Alameda' is an 18th-century Spanish word that describes a shady, tree-lined avenue and conjures up images of colonial ports around the world. The Alameda Restaurant, off the main Sanlitun Street, is a glass-covered conservatory style house that looks like a transparent ice cream or candy store. It is cleverly positioned beneath a line of trees, covered in rich foliage, giving diners a cool retreat in the blistering heat of summer.

A product of the partnership of Brazilian gourmards Vivi and Gaby, Alameda blends fresh ingredients with simple home-produced flavors. The dishes created in the restaurant's open kitchen are testament to the talent of the chefs and Brazilian creativity.

Lunch and dinner menus change each day according to what can be found at market. The prices have remained 118 yuan for a set dinner and 60 yuan for a set lunch for several years, even as other prices in the city have soared. Succulent beef mignon with sweet pumpkin puree, pan-fried crispy Brazilian tainha fish, green salads and rustic black-bean and sausage *feijoada* mean that Alameda has something for everyone.

Bitter aromatic Brazilian coffee, *caipirinha*, a sugar-cane spirit that is a favorite of Brazilians and a wide choice of international wines and liqueurs are just some of the tipples that make up the drink's list at this classy dining spot.

However, with the abundance of pasta dishes, first time visitors would be forgiven for thinking this restaurant was an Italian rather than a Brazilian eatery. The pasta dish I sampled was down as a fettuccine but was in fact linguini. And it was a tad salty for my taste and there was slightly too much sauce for the pasta.

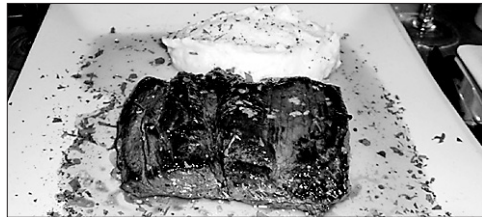
Alameda

Where: Sanlitun Bar North Street (next to the Nali shopping center) Alameda Restaurant and Lounge, Sanlitun Bar North Street

Open: 11:30am-2pm (lunch); 6pm-10:30pm (dinner)

Cost: 70 yuan per person

Tel: 6417 8084



Mouth-watering: filet mignon

Photos provided by Alameda



Brazilian barbeque in an elegant courtyard surrounding

Photos provided by Churrasceria Beijing-Brasil

Barbecue in the courtyard

By Wang Xiaoyuan

You may take the courtyard as another heritage preserved near Chang'an Avenue as a mistake. The round entrance, which is called 'Moon Gate' in traditional Chinese architecture, the red low walls, and the gray roof with sculpted eaves speak nothing of Brazil. However, that is where Churrasceria Beijing-Brasil is, the oldest Brazilian restaurant in Beijing.

To enter the restaurant, you must pass a twisted corridor of red stalks and colorful beams. Bamboo is growing in the courtyard. On the walls of the lounge hang two oil paintings of St. Paulo and the scene of people making Churrasco barbecue over a fire with sticks.

Eight types of barbecue are served for lunch while 17 are served for dinner. And you can find over 30 types of fresh vegetable and fruit to accompany the substantial selection of meats. Lunch orders over 78 yuan come with extra pork ribs and deer meat.

Since it first opened its doors 12 years ago, the restaurant claims to have served up the famous Churrasco barbecue of the highest quality.

"We have the best meat in town, that is the secret of our success," said restaurant manager Wang Yonglu, who has been at the Churrasceria for over eight years. "We also use newly-opened sauces and seasoning every day, no matter how much is left the day before." The original way to bake the meat is on fire but that produces too much black smoke. At this Brazilian eatery they use a charcoal fire to give the meat a crispy skin and keep it soft and juicy inside.

"The better the meat is, the better the taste will be," said Wang. The best way to eat Churrasco barbecue is to taste it with just a small pinch of salt.

"The better the meat is, the better the taste will be," said Wang. The best way to eat Churrasco barbecue is to taste it with just a small pinch of salt.

Churrasceria Beijing-Brasil

Where: No. 46, Fuxing Men Nei Dajie, Xicheng

Open: 11am-2:30pm (lunch); 6pm-10pm (dinner)

Cost: 58-78 yuan per person (lunch); 150 yuan per person (dinner)

Tel: 6608 1328 / 6605 6957



Bafaliya: Brazilian buffet at its best



By Gan Tian

Located in the popular restaurant area Yayuncun Village, Bafaliya serves up typical South American buffets featuring Brazilian-style roasted meats and fish.

The roast prawn is a must if you try Bafaliya's buffet. Bafaliya's manager considers it to be one of the five top treats dished out at the restaurant. The other four are Triangle Meat with Oil, German Pork, Beef Roasted with Charcoal and Plum with Honey. If you have a big appetite Bafaliya's could be for you – the buffet is all you can eat for just 38 yuan.

But the buffet is not all that Bafaliya has on offer. There are three courses specially designed for different people with different moods: if you are tired after work, you can go there and treat yourself to an 'individual course', which may help you wind down after a hard day in the office; if you are feeling in the mood for romance you and your partner can enjoy a 'couple course' and for people who are talking about business the 'business course', with its choice of elegant and formal dishes is the best choice. The prices of these three courses range from 68 yuan to 168 yuan per person.

Bafaliya will host a Beer Festival on July 18, a traditional ceremony in South America. There will be a choice of more than 10 types of beers, and what's more, you can learn to dance Samba before you get drunk!

Bafaliya

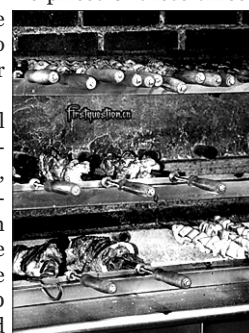
Where: No.4, District 1, Hui Zhong Road, Chaoyang

Open: Mon-Fri: 11am-3pm, 5pm-11pm

Weekends: all day

Cost: 38 yuan per person for buffet, 68-168 yuan per person for set courses

Tel: 8625 1111



Meaty meats

Photos provided by Bafaliya

How to decipher a Brazilian Menu

Coxinhas: an appetizer of breaded 'mock' chicken legs. A variation replaces the bread-crumbs with pastry.

Siri recheado: crab shells stuffed with a mixture of minced crabmeat, cilantro and hot peppers, topped with

grated cheese.

Rabada ensopada: oxtail stew.

Feijoada: Brazil's spectacular national dish. It is an elaborate stew with black beans and many different smoked and sun-dried meats, especially pork and

smoked sausages. It is served with several traditional side dishes, including orange slices, shredded kale, rice, manioc (cassava) meal browned in butter and a hot pepper and lemon sauce.

Picanha com batata

doce frita: a popular cut of steak served with fried sweet potatoes.

Bobo de camarao: fresh shrimp in a puree of dried shrimp, manioc (cassava) meal, coconut milk and nuts, flavored with a palm oil called dende.

Peixe na telha: fish grilled and served on a tile.

Couve a mineira: shredded kale sauteed briefly in oil, onion and garlic.

Abacaxi assado: baked pineapple.

(By Chu Meng)

Special offer

The Traders Cafe (1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) will have an originally titled 'Different Themes' theme month in July. Check out the variation of themes at the daily buffet spread that features Claypot specials at Monday lunchtimes, Italian on Wednesday nights, Singaporean and Malaysian on Thursday nights and an Asian BBQ for Sunday lunch. For more information, call 6505 2277 ext. 35.



Buy one get one free

Buy any beverage at Salade Forme de Corps restaurant (70 Sanlitun Jiubajie, Chaoyang) and you will get another one free between 5pm-8pm, Monday to Friday. For details, call 6415 1558.



20% off Snoopy accessories

Children's brand Snoopy is on sale at Modern Plaza (Dang Dai Shang Cheng, 40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) with costume prices cut by up to 20% until July 20. For details, call 6257 6688.



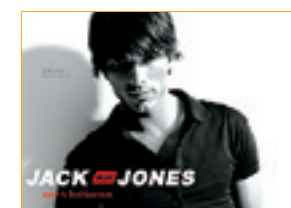
40% off

To celebrate its 45th anniversary, clothing brand Ports is cutting 40% off its prices at The Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center (2 Chaoyangmen Beidajie, Chaoyang) until July 18. For details, call 6505 5279.



50% off at Jack and Jones

Danish clothes brand Jack & Jones is holding a sale at the Grand Pacific Shopping mall (Juntai, 133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng). Up to 50% off all household goods and brands until July 19. For details, call 6612 6888.



50% off household appliances

Hua Lian shopping center (1 Fuchengmenwai Dajie, Xicheng) will cut prices by up to 50% from July 20. The shopping center sells everything from clothes to household appliances. For details, call 6836 4675.



30 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Korean barbecue restaurant Han Na Shan (65 Wanshoulu, Haidian) and you will get 30-yuan voucher until July 31. For details, call 8822 9292.



Free gold necklace

Buy ruby, sapphire or diamond jewelry at Cai Shi Kou shopping center (306 Guanganmennei Dajie, Xuanwu) and get a golden necklace for free until July 30. For details, call 6303 3128.



(By Terence Lu)

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Hotel Kunlun, in partnership with the famed Le Cordon Bleu®, is proud to announce a fabulously gastronomic French Food Promotion from 7 to 21 July 2006.

Michelin Star Chef Bernard Guilhaudin of Le Cordon Bleu® Paris, and Master Pastry Chef Pierre Wolf, will demonstrate their skills through the 14th of July. Witness them prepare a nightly array of regional French dinners at the Summit Club, and exhibit their talents to industry experts and food enthusiasts during special cooking demonstrations.

For further details, kindly contact 6590 3388, extensions 8419 / 5195.

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Nadal

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French Open champions: Nadal and Henin will see you on this September at Beijing

2006 China Open

 September 9 –24 Beijing tennis center

Nadal – Prince of Clay

Nalbandian – Power Boy from South America

Henin – Skill Queen

Vaidisova – Rising Star

Davenport – Tennis “Big Girl”



Organizers:

General Administration of Sport
Beijing Municipal Government

Co-organizers:

Tennis Administrative Centre of General
Administration of Sport
Beijing Sports Bureau
China Open
Promotions Limited

Partners:

Beijing Youth Daily 
Tom Group Limited 



Henin



Nalbandian

Davenport

Davydenko

Vaidisova

Manito bag

**Wang Xiaoyuan takes an absolute leathering**

Not every one likes the fashion giants who always put their huge logo on everything they sell, or the shining peacocks that steal the show. Fortunately, many in the city are keen on original, plain, long-lasting design. Leather can accompany us as time passes. A case, a notebook, a belt, all can be a loyal companion carried everywhere. Leather is the wind from the grasslands that you can feel when stepping into the metropolitan herd.

Manito Leathercraft Studio

This mini studio is run by one person, selling hand-made leather craft. The whole process – from material selection, design, cutting, sewing and polishing is completed by the owner Shen Ran. All the products are sold in retails only and can be made to order. The studio has women's hand-bag, shoulder bags, wallets, and other accessories. Each product is individual and a combination of modern trends and ethnic styles.

Please contact:
13901285003 or email to
ranwear@263.net

Online leather

By Jackie Zhang

Manito Leathercraft Studio is an online store at ebay.com. I found it by chance when I was preparing a birthday present for my father. I intended to order a hand-made leather cover for my father's Zippo lighter.

They can also design the patterns for you. I found the store's telephone online and told Shen what kind of cover I wanted and then sent her the pattern by email. Around a week later, Shen delivered the cover to me by express delivery. The lighter cover with carved characters cost me 280 yuan.

Don't have a cow, man



Shi Cao Tang Multi-use note book



Shi Cao Tang hand bag

Shi Cao Tang (Herbal Heaven)

The brand has opened over 100 branch stores in almost 40 cities around China. Each store has kept the atmosphere of a hidden wildness in stillness. All the shelves are made of heavy dark wood and decorated with straw, red brick and dark iron. There are eight branches in Beijing. They sell varieties of hand-made leather works from couch to dolls, most of which are collectable.

Where: Flagship, 367, Dongsibei Dajie, Dongcheng
Open: 9am-midnight
Tel: 6401 3198

Other Herbal Heaven stores:

88 Xijiekounan Da Jie, Xicheng

Open: 10am-9:30pm

Tel: 6611 2648

1B Building 13, Huaqingjiayuan, Wudaokou, Chengfulu, Haidian

Open: 10am-midnight

Tel: 6615 2211 ext.6101

Hanma Furniture, 32 Wangfujing Dajie

Open: 10am-10pm

Tel: 6525 2482



Shi Cao Tang store

Recommended items:**Manito Zippo case**

Color: deep brown

Size: 2 x 2cm

The case is made to order with sculpted pattern. The size is perfect for a Zippo lighter. On the back of the case are two loops which forms a belt clip.

Price: 280 yuan

Manito key holder

Size: 11 x 18cm (opened), 11x 6cm (folded)

Color: orange brown

The key holder is suitable for both women and men. To open it just screw the button. A dependable and handy design.

Price: 60 yuan

Manito bag (New item) (the length of belt is adjustable)

Size: width: 35cm (top), 28cm (bottom), thickness: 8cm (thickness), length: 38cm (belt)

Color: light brown

There is an inside pocket in the bag for your wallet. The most attractive part is the round bronze hook and loop.

Price: 650 yuan

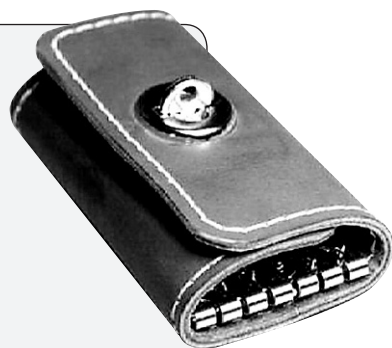
Manito men's belt

Size: 95 x 4cm

Color: many colors available

If you want to find something plain and long lasting, this is what you are looking for. The only decorations are some bronze nails, which can be removed if you don't like them.

Price: 108 yuan



Manito key holder



Manito Zippo case

Recommended items:**Business case (Herbal Heaven)**

Size: 30 x 25 cm

Color: dark and light brown

All made of leather and half polished. The case is big enough for you to carry a laptop and other documents.

Price: 560 yuan

Canvas handbag (Herbal Heaven)

Size: 25 x 10cm

Color: light green and brown handles

The latest women's hand-bag collection. The broad handles show the spirit of freedom and durability of the brand. Canvas also implies a long-lasting character. Inside there are three layers and a pocket with zip, and it always holds much more than you expect.

Price: 550 yuan

Horseshoe shoulder bag (Herbal Heaven)

Size: 15 x 15cm

Color: almond yellow

Made of very soft bull leather and polished strings. The bag is very versatile. Take it camping, hiking, shopping or even clubbing! Don't forget to wear something to match.

Price: 350 yuan

Multi-use note book (Herbal Heaven)

Size: 15 x 20cm

Color: orange brown

The suitcase style notebook can also be a business card case. A separate pen container is included. The design gives it a bourgeois look. The effete dilettante in you will love it.

Price: 320 yuan



Would you cut your feet to fit your fancy shoes?

To look good, women are squeezing their feet into shoes with high, high heels and pointy toes.

Dr Stephen Conti, a US-based Allegheny General Hospital foot and ankle specialist, said that wearing these kind of shoes long enough can permanently and painfully deform feet.

Unfortunately, if you still really want to wear high heels with narrow toes, Conti says you really shouldn't wear a heel higher than an inch and a half. If you just have to wear those high, high heels and narrow-toed shoes he suggests you try this:

1. Save the use of your high-heeled shoes for functions in which you will not be on your feet for extended periods of time, and use a two-inch, not a four-inch, heel.
2. Take your designer shoes to a podiatrist to have them custom fitted to your feet. They may be able to stretch the toe box to better accommodate your feet.
3. Try wearing a larger size shoe than usual and insert heel cups into the backs for a better, more comfortable fit.
4. Use a spacer between the large and second toe.
5. Wear open-toe shoes instead of a similarly styled heel that causes discomfort.

Conti also said the higher the heel the more pressure on the ball of the foot, which can result in pain and long-lasting foot problems. Here is how high-heels affect the ball of the foot.

- 1-inch heel: 22 percent increase in pressure
- 2-inch heel: 57 percent increase in pressure
- 3-inch heel: 76 percent increase in pressure

To tell if your shoe fits properly, trace your bare foot, then put your shoe over the outline. If the shoe doesn't cover the outline, it's not a proper fit.

(By Chu Meng)

How to...get rid of your World Cup beer belly

By Gareth George

A wise man once said to me "Get yourself together, shape up and get a proper job." Of course, I didn't listen to him – he was a fat chap. How can you take someone seriously who can't even control the amount of booze and pie they stuff down their guts? I'm not sure whether this tale reflects worse on him or I, but suffice to say I am now older if not necessarily wiser. The words of Chris Barrie's Rimmer from *Red Dwarf* come to mind "...then you reach that age, 24, 25, your muscles give up, they wave a little white flag and without any warning at all you're suddenly a fat bastard." See? Eventually the belly catches up with all of us. Even you. Yes, YOU. See that expanding dome shaped thing just below the football screen that seems just right for balancing a bottle of Tsing Dao? That's your gut. After the World Cup, when you think about it, you will probably want it to go away. Here, our experts tell you how.

Ms Qin, Aji

"My advice is that when the world cup finishes, you should sleep earlier. And don't drink beer – that makes you fat. Eat home cooked Chinese food rather than pizzas and cheeseburgers. Especially lots of green boiled vegetables and leaves."

Max Zago, Bodybuilder

"Eat pasta. It provides carbohydrates without fat for energy. Make sure you drink lots of water and then decide on a hard training schedule and train hard my English friend! The weight will come off if you stick to it."

Serena Lee, Model

"You're probably asking the wrong person. I never get fat – both my parents are very thin too. I'm lucky because I can eat whatever I want and I never bother to exercise. Even all my traveling doesn't seem to affect my weight. I do lose weight when I break up with someone

though...when I get sad, or don't get a job. Or when I get sick. You could try that."

Jackie Xu, Designer

"I would try squeezing watermelon juice at home and replacing your evening meal with several glasses of that. You'll lose weight fast. Also I exercise when I come home from work – before I have a chance to get lazy on the sofa. About an hour of walking and running. And I make sure I pick my knees up to work out my thighs and bum. Cycling is good for this too."



Ice cream – the sweetest diet in summer



You can lose 10, 20, even 30 pounds while enjoying your favorite summer treat – ice cream. New research from the Center for Human Nutrition at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center shows that ice cream – when eaten as part of a healthy diet – may actually melt away fat, helping you lose extra pounds faster than if you had abstained!

"In general, if you deprive yourself of preferred foods, you start to crave them," said Richard Mattes, PhD, professor of food and nutrition at Purdue University in Indiana.

The secret, slim-down-faster ingredient is its luscious supply of calcium. In a recent study, overweight people who took a calcium supplement lost 26 percent more body weight and 38 percent more body fat than those who ate the same reduced-calorie diet minus the supplement.

In addition to all the scientific evidence, many readers have gotten terrific results on this diet.

"I get fat if I don't eat ice cream," said Rita Soloman, who has lost 50 pounds after ice cream diet. That's when Rita invested in a trip to a weight loss spa. "They gave us pizza and ice cream! At the time, I thought it was ridiculous."

But once Rita lifted the taboo on 'fattening' food, she dropped the weight. "It's all about balance," she explains. "When you know you can enjoy ice cream every day, it's not such a big deal when you do."

Before you reach for the Ben & Jerry's, remember that too much Rocky Road can become Lumpy Hips. While this diet provides a fabulous daily treat, it isn't an excuse to go gorge yourself into praline laced oblivion. For best results, follow these simple rules for dishing out the creamy stuff:

1. Choose ice creams with 125 or fewer calories per serving.
2. Never, ever eat ice cream straight out of the container. 'Pint diving' is hard to resist, especially at the end of a nerve-racking day. But the "I'll have just a few spoonfuls" mind-set is a slippery slope. Soon you'll be literally scraping bottom.
3. To keep your calorie count in check, there is a foolproof system. Women get one cup and men get one and a half cups of ice cream every day. You'll still drop pounds, because your treat is factored in to a nutritious diet that totals 1,500 calories a day for women and 2,000 calories for men.
4. You can indulge in full-fat premium ice creams, but don't do it more than once every 2 weeks. With all dessert options, check the label for calories, and adjust your serving size.
5. No weight loss program is complete without exercise. The ice cream diet recommends 30 minutes of aerobic exercise 3 to 5 days a week and 20 minutes of strength training 2 or 3 days a week.

(By

Qiu Jiaoning)



Let there be light – the easy way to banish facial flaws

Dr Faith Deng from Bioscor International Clinic for Cosmetic Medicine:

Growing numbers of dermatologists are now using intense pulse-light (IPL) therapy – instead of lasers – to smooth and correct facial flaws. With this new magic wand, they can delete fine-to-moderate veins and wrinkles, remove rosacea, enlarged pores and facial flushing, and erase a whole array of pigment problems, including sunspots. IPL is also a powerful collagen stimulator.

IPL treatment utilizes intense pulsed light – the short wave length laser light, to effectively rejuvenate the skin of the face, neck, chest, arms and hands. Specific settings are selected for each treatment area for optimal results. Visible improvement is achieved with little discomfort and minimal risk.

During the treatment, light energy delivers a series of gentle pulses to the skin non-invasively. With each flash of light there is sequential rejuvenation of the

target area without damage to the surrounding skin.

Not everyone is a candidate for IPL treatment, so only a qualified doctor or dermatologist can determine if you are eligible for treatment. He or she will discuss your health, examine your skin and explain to you what can and essentially what cannot be successfully treated. A treatment plan and schedule should be designed for your skin type and skin areas, which will respond best to IPL technology.

The IPL treatment receives a high degree of patient satisfaction because there is no downtime, no scarring, discomfort is minimal, and treatments are easy.

Bioscor Beijing Clinic

Where: Room 1008, E-Tower No. 12 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang Free consultation in Chinese, English and Japanese.

Tel: 6503 5707 / 5706

Email:

Beijing@bioscor.com.cn

www.bioscor.com.cn

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province is a great place to avoid the summer heat. But few know there is a small county named She County in Huangshan city, which can provide a good alternative for quiet folk.

She County is famous for its well preserved Hui style architecture, villages and historic sites. The high Hui-style horsehead walls (named so because the white wall and tiled roof resemble a white horse and its mane flying in the air), houses, the foursquare ancestral temples, and deep and serene streets – these have marked She County a historic location. Most impressive of all, is the traditional Chinese memorial archways.



Tangyue memorial archway cluster

She County – the beauty of Chinese architecture

Traditional Chinese memorial archway

Chinese memorial archways have existed since the Zhou Dynasty (BC1046-256). They symbolize honor, showing glory and achievements, and memorializing important people or events.

In ancient China, it was a glory for a person to have an archway built for him. People who had achieved an official rank higher than Juren (a successful candidate in the imperial examinations at the provincial level in the Ming (AD 1368-1644) and Qing Dynasties (AD1644-1912)) could establish an archway with the permission of local government. It was even more difficult to build archways praising one's success, achievements, fealty or chastity. The applications needed to be approved by the emperor.

Memorial archways are usually made of stone, bricks, wood or cement. There were also archways built for officials of high level, important historical events, and the construction of famous temples.

Tangyue memorial archway cluster

Tangyue memorial archway cluster in Tangyue Village, at the west side of She County is one of the most famous archway clusters in China. These memorial archways were built by the Bao family, a famous Hui business family that lived through the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Tangyue Village is more than 800 years old. Most of the villagers' family name is Bao. They ran business generation by generation and emphasize filial obedience.

The famous archway cluster is at the entrance to the village, arranged in the order of *Zhong* (loyalty to the court), *Xiao* (filial obedience), *Jie* (virginity kept for a husband) and *Yi* (faith to friends). There are seven memorial archways. Three of them were built in the Ming Dynasty and the other four in Qing Dynasty.

The Mashi Archway was built during the Jiaping period (AD 1522-1566) of the Ming Dynasty. It is more than 450 years old. This archway was built for praising Bao Can, famous for educating his children. His offspring made a great contribution to protecting the country. The emperor ordered this archway for praising him.

Among the seven memorial archways, two out of them were specially built for highlighting women's chastity in the Qianlong period (AD1736-1795) of Qing Dynasty. The two women kept widowhood, and led a poor life and brought their children up after their husbands died. They earned their two stone archways through their loneliness and hardship.

Women ancestral temples

Besides the famous memorial archway cluster in the Tangyue Village, the ancestral temples are

also worth seeing.

The Men's Ancestral Temple is at the west side of the village with the archway cluster. The whole temple was for showing the influence of the Bao Family and the precise family regulations.

The Women's Ancestral Temple, named Qingyi Ancestral Temple, is the only women's ancestral temple that remains intact in China, built in the Jiaqing period (AD1796-1820) of Qing Dynasty.

Ancestral temples were for men discussing important affairs, punishing people who violated family regulations and consecrating ancestors. Women were not allowed to enter the ancestral temples at all in feudal society. Thus, Qingyi Ancestral Temple was unique at that time. It was built especially for women to discuss affairs relating to them and consecrating female ancestors.



Women ancestral temple

Photo provided by chivavr.net

Transportation

She County is in the city of Huangshan, Anhui Province. It is only 27 kilometers away from Tunxi, downtown Huangshan. There are direct coach buses from Tunxi to She County. Tickets are four yuan.

The distance between She County and the Tangyue memorial archway cluster is six kilometers. You can go there by bus or taxi.

There are buses between the different sights in She County and also to the railway station. The cheapest ticket is one yuan.

Food

The local village food includes partridge, mandarin fish, *maodoufu* (a kind of bean curd with a layer of white mycelium made by artificial ferment) and *furong gao*, a kind of cake.

Accommodation

There isn't much accommodation in She County. Xin'an Hotel, Ziyang Hotel and Piyun Hotel are nice. There are also some local hostels, which will cost you less. The hostels in Yuliang Town, three kilometers away south of She County, are nice. You can hear the sound of the water from Yuliang Dam in the rooms.

Xin'an Hotel

Add: No. 12, Hongqi Road,

She County, Huangshan City, Anhui Province

Tel: 0559-6512170

Ziyang Hotel

Add: No. 25, Xin'an Road, She County, Huangshan City, Anhui Province

Tel: 0559-6512666

Piyun Hotel

Add: No. 5, Piyun Road, She County, Huangshan City, Anhui Province

Tel: 0559-6530000

(By Jackie Zhang)

Beijing Curios

The dog park

By Gareth George

A Newfoundland strolls steadily after a slight, undistinguished woman. The woman struts, regarding onlookers as though she were a fashion model dismissing the ordinary. A man dressed shoulder to toe in Gestapo black follows quickly behind his angular Doberman, the tight leash between the two implying a strained relationship. A wiry youth's arms striate as he drags his Husky – glacial eyes bulging – from a timid Beagle.

Retrievers splash. Spaniels chase rubber balls. Tails are wagged, raised threateningly, tucked meekly, drenched cable thin. Bums are sniffed, no inch of ground born scent is left unvacuumed. A Labrador mauls a Pomeranian. Chaos and water erupts. Phone numbers and mutterings of expensive vet bills exchanged.

Most bipeds here are less diverse. Khaki shorts, sunglasses, sandals and socks. Inevitably, video cameras. A big dog, like a car or a mobile phone, means status. In a country still more than a little touchy about its rep as 'bicycle dominated', a Mercedes badge still carries a lot of kudos. Brendall, a US consultant for Nokia believes that the average corporate sales exec back home would show up to pitch in a Ford. Here it's a BMW. It's the same with phones. "I finally upgraded my handset a few months ago," Brendall told me, "I'm usually a bottom of the line man, but I got one here with a few extra features. My water delivery boy showed up and, seeing it, started chatting about the merits of the series. Of course, he had the next model up."

But if your phone, and to a lesser extent your car can't guarantee status, what can?

If you have a big pedigree dog, it means you also have a palatial space outside the city for it to roam. And you almost certainly live beyond the fourth ring road, as further in, large dogs are illegal, so that means you have a car – and if the dog's big enough, it's probably an estate. And if you have multiple dogs, you probably have a clutch of ayi whose only job is to tend your beasts. That's why you'll see glossy breed focused magazines on newsstands with complimentary CD ROMs.

No wonder dogs have their own playground at Chaoyang Park – how else would their owners get to show them off? For all the dog-cercise equipment, the show stand, the great stretches of grass, the shops, the barbeque, all the attention is focused on the pool. Some dogs strut aggressively, some stay close to their owners. Retrievers hurl themselves in the water and steal other dogs' toys. Pomeranians yap. A heavy Alsatian snores in its drool. And their owners all sit back and look very, very pleased with themselves.

Coolbaby dog park
Where: East of Chaoyang Park Tennis Center, Chaoyang.
Tel: 6500 6295



The road where Jun-sang and Yu-jin rode a bike in Winter Sonata

Photos provided by Korea Tourism Organization Beijing Office

Gongwo-do: tracing love Korean-style



Yongpyong Resort. Saw plenty of heaving bosoms in Winter Sonata.

Following the trace of *Autumn in My Heart*

Hwajinpo Beach

Located at Goseong-gun in Gongwo-do Province, it is the location where the male character walks on the beach with the dead female lead on his back at the end of the play.

Deep blue oceans and endless coastline probably are the first impression people have when they see the beach for the first time. The magnificent Hwajin-poho Lagoon and a refreshing pine tree forest adds to the beauty of this place.

The beach is originally known for its beautiful 1.7 kilometer long shoreline preserved with shallow and clean water and fine sands. The spectacular view of sunset is another reason many people visit.

Moving inland from the beach, you will find the Hwajin-poho Lagoon. It is one of the most beautiful lagoons in South Korea with its graceful scenery, surrounded by a forest of pine trees and a field of sweet briars. The name Hwajinpo actually originated from the numerous sweet briars blooming here.

Best time to visit time: From July 12 to August 21

Tel: 82 33 1330

Countryside primary school

Autumn in My Heart put this old abandoned primary school, Sangwung Elementary School,

(at Yangyang-gun) on the attraction list.

In the drama, Jun-Seo, the hero, has a small art studio in the school. In reality, the school is the studio of the famous potter Jeong Jae-Nam, the wife of the renowned novelist Kim Ha-In.

Like the heroine in the TV drama, you could try to make your own pottery here. Fees for ceramics-making is 10,000 won per person, with 3,000 won extra for delivery.

Opening hours: 9am to 7:30pm **Tel:** 82 33 672 4054

Cheongho-dong Village

The village of Cheongho-dong at Sokcho-si city is now the hometown to many people of North Korean ancestry and is commonly called Abai Village. The word 'Abai' means 'an aged person'.

The streets of Cheongho-dong are lined with small Korean houses of 1970s style. The simple nature of the town and quietness of the sea.

In the drama, the lead actress's mother had a supermarket in Cheongho-dong. Nearby the supermarket the lead actress often took a boat, which has now become a popular attraction for tourists. Holding up to 35 people, this 'Gaetbae' boat operates on manpower and can be taken from downtown Sokcho to Cheongho-dong.

Tel: 82 33 635 2003

As a result of South Korean TV shows and their popularity, the film locations have become fans' dream destinations. Gonwon-do Province at the north-eastern part of the Korean peninsula, is now whispering its soft call to Korean TV lovers of shows *Autumn in My Heart* and *Winter Sonata*, with its fantastic view of Mt. Seoraksan and Mt. Chiaksan. The scenery alters as the seasons change.

Recreate your own *Winter Sonata*

Namiseom Island

This island is the location where many scenes in *Winter Sonata* were shot. It is a half moon shaped isle, formed when water became blocked and a lake came into being due to the construction of the Cheongpyeong Dam.

The Namiseom Island is at Chuncheon-si city, Gangwon-do Province. The island is famous for its beautiful tree lined roads. A leisurely walk around the island will take you approximately two to three hours. Many visitors choose the bicycle tour. Bicycles can be rented at the administrative office near the center of the island.

There is a small farm area on the island with many ostriches. It's fun to race the ostriches while riding bicycles.

On Namiseom Island there are no telephone poles. All electric wires were built underground to keep the natural feeling of the landscape.

Recommended visit time: May, July, August, and October
Opening time: 7:30am to 9:30pm

Tel: 82 31 582 5118

Admission: adults of 20 and over 5,000 won; teenagers age 13 to 18 3,500 won and children

of 5 to 12 years old 2,500 won. (Including round-trip boat fee)

Gongjicheon Area

The Gongjicheon Area at Chuncheon city, Gongwo-do Province, is the spot where the teenage Jun-sang and Yu-jin, two main characters in *Winter Sonata* get off the bus together, realizing that they have missed their stop. They return to the same location 10 years later in a retrospective journey.

In the Gongjicheon Area, you can find parks, fountains, boating area, sporting facilities and an outdoor theater.

The most famous spots are the quaint Dohojugyo Bridge and the white-fenced road along the Uiamho Lake. The Dohojugyo Bridge is made of 25 wooden planks resting on boats, which rocks back and forth giving visitors a little thrill while walking across. The white fenced road, which is about 10 kilometers long, is an ideal place for couples to take a drive or bike riding.

Tel: 82 33 1330 or 82 33 252 3600

Renting bicycles: bicycle for one person 3,000 won per hour; bicycle for two people, 5,000 won per hour. (By Zhang Nan)



Famous shopping street in Chuncheon - Myeona-dong Street.



Hwajinpo Beach

By Han Manman

How does Hilton select its interns? The hotel does not consider interns simply as cheap labor but as a potential resource for Hilton's

future development. The hotel industry changes quickly so Hilton is always looking to recruit new talent. The following experiences of three interns at the hotel are very different from those

of the last generation. "We hoped these interns would bring new life to the hotel and creative thinking that would impact on our old methods of hotel management," said Emma.



Select the interns Hilton needs



Luo Xue

Luo Xue has worked on the Hilton's front desk for a year. She will be offered a permanent position after graduating in Tourism Management from Beijing Union University this month.

Our university has strong ties with the Hilton. When my teacher told us Hilton had some intern vacancies, I applied. I had three interviews in English. At Hilton, if you apply for a different department someone different interviews you. But the first interview is always the same. More than 30 applicants gathered in a big boardroom and were asked to introduce themselves.

I was one of the only eight people asked to come in for a second interview. The business development executive took charge of the second interview. Before interviewing me he asked me to write my top three department choices. My first choice was the front desk. He explained that his department was responsible for marketing, finance and HR, he asked me why I wanted to work on the front desk. I thought I had failed the interview and assumed that they did not have a front desk position. But I was honest with the interviewer and thought that even if it meant I risked failing, I should tell him what I think and show him my abilities. I told him that I thought the front desk was the face of Hilton and that, faced with different guests everyday, I would be able to improve my communication and problem-solving skills. He said nothing when he heard my answer. I assumed I had failed the interview.

To my complete surprise I received a phone call from the Hilton's HR department an hour after the interview. The HR manager told me to meet with the German hall manager two days later. I was really excited.

There were lots of interesting training sessions involved in the internship such as hair and make-up training. The teacher taught us how to choose the right lipstick, eye shadow and hair color.

My advice to other university students looking for jobs would be to follow your hearts. Work hard and your boss will take notice. If there are any job opportunities, they will think about you.



Chu Chun

Chu Chun has worked at Hilton's Finance Department for a year. She will get a job offer after graduating from the Finance Department at Beijing Union University this month.

I majored in finance. However, when I came to Hilton, I felt I knew nothing about it. In class, all we learnt was how to write notes and how to do accounts. But everything was done on computers at Hilton on an operation system I have never seen or heard of before. It was also very hard to understand the thick English instruction book explaining how the system worked. On my first day I asked one of my colleagues to copy something for me but I got the impression that they were annoyed at being asked for help in such a direct manner.

The finance department is a comparatively steady department in the hotel. Most of the people who work there have been there for years without changing their job. Everyone has a very clear work description in the finance department.

My mentor left Hilton half a month after I arrived. So I had to do the monthly calculations with a new member of staff. She was also a newcomer. Sometimes we worked until 12pm.

After six months as an intern, my finance executive asked me if I wanted to stay on after my graduation. She explained that the finance department is different from other departments. If I don't want to do the current job, my position will be given to someone else. But if I chose to stay, the position would be kept for me until I finished university. I decided to stay.

I noted that Hilton needed a finance intern only a short time before the interview. Without enough preparation, I volunteered to be the first to give a presentation at the first interview. I had participated in various speaking competitions and social activities before, so I felt confident. I found the public speech easy. Although I was under-prepared, I gave a logical and clear speech that impressed the interviewer.

Lots of students are ambitious. The most important thing is to get work experience. So be steady in your work and learn from it. Graduates are young enough to learn new things and develop.



Ma Li

Ma Li has worked for Hilton's HR Department for a year. She will get a job offer after graduating in Tourism Management from Beijing Union University this month.

I was nervous when faced with an audience of over 40, including the HR manager, recruitment manager and department managers, at the self-introduction stage. I told them my English name is Super Mary. From my English name, they may have thought that I am an optimistic girl. I was the only one chosen for a second face-to-face interview with the HR executive. It was more of a chat than an interview. She asked me if I had any self-development targets and told me what the Hilton HR department does and how it will develop in the future. I am not a fashionable girl so work behind the scenes is more suitable for me.

Our HR department is divided into two parts, the human department and the training department, including the HR manager, training manager, recruitment manager, welfare manager, HR executive, coordinators and me. The HR executive arranged me to work in each position in turns. I didn't have my own work at first. I just helped others who needed help and I tried to learn from everyone. In the HR department, everything you do has an effect on the work of others.

Our work is very detail oriented. Lots of unplanned events mean that you end up doing everything. At first I just did things like helping to check resumes and contacting applicants for interviews. Now I have my own work, I am responsible for personnel and take charge of new comers. No matter what department he or she is working for, they need to see me first. I feel good about that.

In the HR department, we need to take our work very seriously because everything we do affects the rest of the staff. For the front desk clerk the guests are their gods but for us the Hilton staff are our gods. What we do everyday is provide a service for them.



"When we select interns, we ask them to fill in a table listing their three top choices for departments to work in. We think it is important that interns work in departments in which they have an interest because this will help them learn. If they are qualified

for the position we will recommend them to the relative department manager for a further interview. If not, we will give them a second choice.

For example, if someone wants to work on the front desk but did not smile throughout

the interview because of nervousness, we will not recommend them to the front hall department because this position requires someone who has good communication skills."

— Emma Ma, Human Resources Manager, Hilton

Luo Xue

Comments from Emma Ma: Luo Xue is a very easy going and lovely person, very conscientious. She always has a smile on her face. She is the one you want to communicate with and even if she makes a mistake, you are always willing to give her a second chance. Working on the front desk is not a beauty competition. What we want for the girls is to behave with decency and be easy going. Some girls are very pretty but are very impassive and hard to communicate with. But Luo is very pretty and is good at her job. We gave her the chance to take charge of the front desk in recognition of her abilities. It is rare to see an intern take on such a level of responsibility after just six months.

Chu Chun

Comments from Emma Ma: Chu Chun is a very steady girl who takes her work seriously. She always tries to learn and does everything very precisely. The finance department is a very steady team. When we selected interns we pay a lot of attention to his or her long-term development. Chu Chun was well suited to the finance department, which was also her first choice.

Ma Li

Comments from Emma Ma: Mary has the makings of a fine HR worker: warm heart, sense of responsibility, a good listener and someone who can be trusted to keep secret information to herself. She will do the work well the first time so you won't have to ask her twice. She has a great appetite for knowledge and is very conscientious. Whether they are regular staff or temporary workers, she always calls them 'uncle' or 'aunt'. Hilton's yearly staff questionnaire has a question that asks whether the HR has a sincere and polite attitude towards work. I once overheard two workers saying that Ma Li is a really good girl and no matter how busy she is, when they have problems, Ma Li is always willing to help them first. HR staff need to get involved with the hotel staff and be good team players. That is exactly what Ma Li does.

(Photos by Han Manman)

► Follow Beijing Today

— Helping you to write a good speech in English

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

What is life?

By Fan Ruohong

What is life? It is a simple question but difficult to answer. Every one tries to give his own reply. I have learned the meaning of life from my grandpa a lot. My grandpa was born in 1921. Now he is 84 years old. Actually I didn't know very well about his first-half of life until last year I read his autobiography which gave me a lot of shock and stimulation.

The main part of his book is during the period of late 1960s to early 1970s. Everyone knows that time – so feverish, so ridiculous, and so destructive – we called it the Chinese Culture Revolution. Grandpa suffered a lot till one day he decided to commit suicide to stop all the opprobrium

and humiliation. "Death is the easiest way out" grandpa calmly wrote this sentence in his book. But I knew it bore too much sorrow which could not be expressed verbally.

He attempted to kill himself. But at the last minute, something strongly stopped him. What is it? Not fear, not dread, but his worry about his family-his 3 children and wife-my grandma.

His book says, "If I did that, I could completely free myself from pains. But I would leave my pain of whole life to my families. That's the most frightened darkness and cruel nightmare for the persons I love."

At that time, choosing to die is much easier than choosing to live. Experiencing all the

conflicting struggles in mind, grandpa bravely chose to live. He said, "I choose to live, cause I want to live for my families. I choose to live, cause I want to know the answer of this social storm. I choose to live, cause I want to see the truth."

Grandpa saw the truth and during the most difficult times, his spirit strongly sustained the whole family. And the truth of history was the ridiculous backward revolution collapsed and his rehabilitation was announced. Now he is very healthy and optimistic and never fears of any difficulties after that.

Every time I read the story of grandpa, just like I relived his life once. I'd like to know his sorrows and pains, to experience his conflict struggles, to learn his sufferings from the society and the burden of life.

I know, each time I relived his life, I was baptized once. Life is when you suffer the pains, you understand happiness; Life is when you lose what you have, you understand cherishment; Life is when you hold on and conquer the darkness, you understand persistence; Life is when you love your family, you hold up light for them.

What is life? Basically speaking life itself has no meaning. We just like other animals and plants. We were born, we live and we die. Nothing is special. So, what is life? Life means nothing to ourselves, but it may mean something to the people

around us.

What is life? Life is to light lights for the world, for the society, for the people around us. Light the lights to warm them, and then warm ourselves.



Fan Ruohong is a student of Beijing University.

Photo provided by Fan Ruohong

► Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see some Chinglish signs, take a picture and send to shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Noodle nonsense

By Philip Space

Ultimate noodles are one, Tukekara-noodle.

The noodles of a phantom with the resistance to the teeth of boast of our shop

The exquisite rainy season which repeated trial and error and was completed

Colorful red pepper of Asia

Domestic careful selection of pork with little fat of female liking is used.

It has healthy vegetables with salad feeling fully.

This sign was spotted on the window of a Japanese restaurant in Beijing and is presumably an attempt to entice people in to sample the Tukekara noodles. Unfortunately the description is so muddled, potential customers are unlikely to read past the second line let alone go into the restaurant.

'Ultimate noodles are one, Tukekara-noodle'. The authors have included this line to try to stress just how good Tukekara noodles are but it



does not make sense. A better way to phrase it would be **'Tukekara noodles are our best-selling dish'**. 'The noodles of a phantom with the resistance to the teeth of boast of our shop' is a baffling line and would be better written as follows; **'The noodles are the pride of our restaurant'**. The structure of the sixth line is a mess and the tenses are wrong. **'The noodles are cooked with hand selected, lean cuts of pork'** would be a better way to construct this sentence. Finally, 'It has healthy vegetables with salad feeling fully,' should be changed to, **'the noodles are served with fresh vegetables'**.

Shock, horror – Silk Street gives advice on protecting 'rights'

By Philip Space

Please want the credit card from owners in order to protect your rights

I can only guess at what this Silk Street sign means. Verbs are used incorrectly; the tenses are wrong and the sentence structure typically muddled.

Assuming the Silk Street chiefs are trying to encourage customers to ask for the stallholders' identity cards, a better way to phrase this would be;



'Please check the stallholders' guarantee cards to ensure they are genuine.'

Photos provided by Purple Haze Restaurant & Bar

John Gordon's reply

Dear Fan Ruohong,

What a moving story you tell about your grandfather's life and the inspiration he has been to you! Your speech is a great example that telling a moving story that comes from the heart can be more important than any grammar mistakes one might make. In this response, though, I will point out some of the errors that you can correct, and also give some general advice on giving a speech in English.

In your first paragraph, you write that you "have learned the meaning of life from my grandpa a lot." We would usually place "a lot" earlier in the sentence, and express your meaning like this: "I have learned a lot about the meaning of life from my grandpa." In the same paragraph, saying you didn't know "very well" about his life is definitely Chinglish. You should say "I didn't know very much about the first half of his life".

In the fourth sentence of your second paragraph you write "Death is the easiest way out" grandpa calmly wrote this sentence in his book." Whereas in Chinese you might include "this sentence" in such a sentence, it is unnecessary in English, so you should take it out. In the next paragraph, you ask, "What is it?" but you are talking about an event in the past, so you should write, "What was it?"

I'm not quite sure what you mean when you say, "But I would leave my pain of whole life to my families." One way to revise this sentence would be to say "But I would leave a whole life of pain for my family members." Further on in the same paragraph, you refer to the "frightened darkness". This implies that the darkness itself was frightened, when I assume you mean that the darkness was frightening to people. If that is the case, then you should say "frightening darkness".

In your fifth paragraph you repeat-

edly use "cause" instead of "because". This is fine in casual spoken English, and not a big problem when giving a speech, but in formal speech situations we would usually just use "because". Further on in your speech, you say that reading the story of your grandfather "just like I relived his life once". You should say either "it is just like reliving his life", or "it was as if I am reliving his life". Finally, you say "we just like" animals and plants when you should say "we are just like" them.

Writing a speech in a foreign language is a challenge. One of the best features about your speech is that it is written in simple, clear sentences. While English writing can be quite complicated, modern speeches are usually very simple, because the goal is to get the point across as clearly as possible. Another feature of your speech that I think others can learn from is that you used the story of your grandfather to explore your topic of "What is life?" Stories are often one of the most effective ways to get a point across when giving a speech. One suggestion is to practice your delivery many times before you give the speech. Writing an effective speech and giving an engaging presentation are often equally important.

All the best,

John

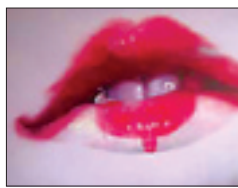


John Gordon is the vice president of Beijing New Channel School

(By Chen Shasha)

Friday, July 14

Exhibition



Go Where You Can

Contemporary art group exhibition

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until July 17

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525

Internal Injuries

Group exhibition featuring artists Wu Weihe, Chang Qing, Chen Qingqing, Cheng Qi, Zhen Wei, Zhang Jianhua, Zhang Xiaotao and Zhu Yu.

Where: Marella Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until July 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 4055

Exhibition showcasing the works of Chen Xingwei, Li Gang, Liu Xudong, Wei Baogang and Ye Pixiang.

Where: Two Lines Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until July 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 13910118792

Movie

Crazy Mind

Tang Daxing is released from prison after seven years to find that in the new China, cash is king...

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: daily at 8pm

Admission: 30-50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745

Music

Crystal Lake performs with Broken Star and New Perfume

Where: 13 club, 161 Lan-qiying Lu, Haidian

When: 9pm

Admission: 20-30 yuan

Tel: 8262 8077

Saturday, July 15

Exhibition

Flowing Melody In the Sky

Exhibition featuring artists Qiu Anxiong and Yang Liming

Where: Jia Art Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 7416

Mad Under Construction

Exhibition features works in progress or in design from one of Beijing's most startlingly new innovative architectural studios, MAD.

Where: Beijing Tokyo

Art Projects, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until August 27

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

Movie

So Much Rice

Where: Box Cafe Space In Imagination, Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, Shuangqing Lu, Haidian

When: 7:30pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6279 1280

Toni

A melodrama about love, sex, jealousy and murder.

Music

Brit-pop band Dya's 10th Anniversary

Where: Nameless Highland, Building 14, Area 1, Anhuili, Yayuncun, Chaoyang

When: 9:30pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6489 1613



Where: The Bund, Building 7, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6417 8288

Music

The Back to Live Show Series

Showcasing the bands Color Youth, The K, TomTom, TooKoo, Flying At Night and DJ Chen Chen.

Where: New Get Lucky, Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: 8:30pm

Admission: 15-30 yuan

Tel: 8448 3335 ext 3339

Music

Beijing Jazz Week

Who: Golden Buddha Jazz Unit

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 23-25

Admission: 10-200 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Music

Don't Cry for Me, Argentina

Who: Chinese Oriental Song & Dance Ensemble

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 3

Admission: 10-200 yuan

Music

Winnie the Pooh

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: August 16-27

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Music

Swan Lake puppet show

Who: China Puppet Art Troupe

Where: China Puppet Theatre, 1 A Anhua Xili, Chaoyang

When: August 11-13

Admission: 50-240 yuan

Music

Violin Concert

Who: Renowned violinist Sheng Zhongguo and his wife,

Seta Hiroko

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 1

Admission: 10-200 yuan

Music

The Lion King - Movie Music Symphony Concert

Who: Symphony Orchestra of the China National Chinese

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 3

Admission: 10-200 yuan

Sunday, July 16

Exhibition

Wu Dewu Solo Exhibition

Where: 798 Red T Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until July 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 8911 5762

Looking for Terrorists: Yue Minjun Solo Exhibition

Where: Beijing Commune, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: until July 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8654 9428

Movie

La Chevre

An odd couple comedy that sees a private eye teaming up with absent-minded publicist to find the missing daughter of a rich businessman.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm, until July 19

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

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Beijing Jazz Week

Who: Golden Buddha Jazz Unit

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 23-25

Admission: 10-200 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Music

Don't Cry for Me, Argentina

Who: Chinese Oriental Song & Dance Ensemble

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 3

Admission: 10-200 yuan

Music

Winnie the Pooh

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: August 16-27

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Music

Swan Lake puppet show

Who: China Puppet Art Troupe

Where: China Puppet Theatre, 1 A Anhua Xili, Chaoyang

When: August 11-13

Admission: 50-240 yuan

Music

Violin Concert

Who: Renowned violinist Sheng Zhongguo and his wife,

Seta Hiroko

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 1

Admission: 10-200 yuan

Music

The Lion King - Movie Music Symphony Concert

Who: Symphony Orchestra of the China National Chinese

Stage in August

Performance

Winnie the Pooh



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